[COVER]

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[illustration]

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JAY – Garrulus glandarius rufitergum.[/caption]

[INSIDE COVER]

A. Graham Brown.

24c Campden Hill Gardens.

London W. 8.

Colac

Victoria

28.6.47. On the 28th June 1947 The Orion arrived
(14) at Fremantle and we had our first sight of
Australia and its birds. SILVER GULLS abounded in
the harbour, their silver-grey backs and red bills
being well remembered. I was astonished at the
number of SKUAS there were in the harbour. They
were feeding on the water or flying round the
ship with the gulls but were never seen to
harry the latter. Alexander (Birds of the Ocean
p.p. 207, 208) gives two species – the Southern Skua
and the dark Skua (Catharacta antarctica and C.
lonnbergi) both with a distribution including
Fremantle. They appear to be Inseparable at
sea. Cayley (p 282) recognises only C. lonnbergi
which he calls the Dark Southern Skua!
Though we saw many TURTLE DOVES on
the bus into Perth our first Australian land
bird was in the company of Dr. DL Serventy
outside the W.A. Museum – a WILLIE WAGTAIL.
More came in the afternoon with a visit to
Kings Park – ~~YELLOW~~ RED WATTLE-BIRD, WESTERN MAGPIE (whose
call was delightful to hear again and which
both Joan and Macdonald immediately rendered [guess]
''ogley – ogley''), WESTERN SPINEBILL, SWALLOW, FAIRY MARTIN
and a very large flock of SILVER-EYES. I had

[28.6.47] never seen such a large flock before. With several YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS they were feeding in the leafy parts of trees and bushes as well as on the ground. One KOOKABURRA was seen but unfortunately it was silent. Looking across the Swan River there could be seen on each of many posts in the water, either a LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT or a LITTLE PIED CORMORANT.

29.6.47 – 3.7.47 (2) On the journey across the Bight (and for several days before reaching Fremantle) many birds on the Australian list were seen but they have been fully entered up in a note book of birds of the voyage. Port Phillip was only responsible for SILVER GULLS and PACIFIC GULLS in all stages of maturity as we crept up to our berth in the early morning.

3.7.47 (2) The first day in Melbourne I was particularly impressed by the universal spread throughout the city of ~~[?]~~ INDIAN MINAHS and TURTLE-DOVES, both of which were far more numerous than I can ever remember.

4.7.47. (12) We went for a drive in the Dandenongs. Our first stop was for a flock of ~~Be~~ BELL-BIRDS which could be heard all about us, but as usual not in sight. A pair of CRIMSON ROSELLAS

[4.7.47] fed quietly on the road-side as we walked to within ten yards of them giving Joan a splendid sight of her first parrots. Even when they flew it was only to a perch just above our heads. WHITE-BACKED MAGPIES and MAGPIE-LARKS were both very common in the ~~bush~~ country. MINAHS were in flocks in open country. Several KOOKABURRAS were seen close to where a party of boys were picnicking, picking the food from round the tables. They too were silent. TURTLE-DOVES were present in pairs in the bush and made odd companions feeding with the Crimson Rosellas. The latter were also seen in flocks with the EASTERN ROSELLAS. YELLOW ROBINS were everywhere (I had quite forgotten them!) and their repeated, almost mechanical call, was the most common sound in the bush. A STRIATED THORNBILL and a pair of WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPERS were seen just at the entrance to Sherbrooke Forest. When we had penetrated into the very damp bush we saw Lyre-bird scratchings and then after a rustling, obtained a very good view of a female LYRE-BIRD, hen-like with large head moving quietly through the under-growth with the inevitable Yellow Robin in attendance. Once more in the open country

[4-7-47] on the way back to Melbourne were SWALLOWS and
it then struck me as odd to have this bird
about when it was middle of winter.

5-7-47 We went for a drive down the Bay to Mornington
(5) returning by the Pt Nepean Rd. SWALLOWS were again
felt as incongruous but down the Bay PACIFIC
GULLS (singly or in small groups) and SILVER GULLS
in hundreds were very much in their place.
The later were indulging in a type of display*
but of what nature could not be decided. As
we had lunch at Brighton a flock of LITTLE
BLACK CORMORANTS flew off shore into a head
wind coming from the Nw at first bunched
and then strung out into a long echelon,
landing on the water 200 yds to our right.
They then drifted back, down-wind and
parallel to the shore. It was soon noticed
that they were over a school of fish but
if they knew when they flew past us that
there was a school there and if so how
they knew, I do not know. They were
continually diving so that at least half were
under water at the same time. The SILVER
GULLS flocked in the air over them harassing
them as they came to the surface with their

[9.7.47] prey and even chasing them when a Cormorant
flew off to escape the pestering. The Gulls were
also fluttering onto the water and feeding off it.
The flock then split in two, the larger drifting
on with the wind, the other returning into
the wind feeding all the time and continually
mobbed by the GULLS: LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS were also seen.

9.7.47 Just before leaving Joan I went for a
(29) walk round Spring St and Exhibition Gardens
and I made the following list. STARLING, SPARROW
INDIAN MYNAH, TURTLE-DOVE, BLACKBIRD, THRUSH,
GOLDFINCH and GREEN-FINCH (heard only); MAGPIE-LARK
MAGPIE, SCARLET ROBIN and WREN. Twelve birds
of which two-thirds are introduced!!

On the trip to Colac were seen SWANS by
the Old Swamp Rd out of Melbourne MAGPIES, CROWS
and SWALLOWS, WILLIE-WAGTAILS were very common
by the young plantations next to the road. Also
PLOVERS were seen in paddocks by water though
whether Banded or Spur-winged I could not tell.

We had lunch on the foreshore at Corio when
we saw on the Lagoon SILVER GULLS, PACIFIC GULLS, LARGE
and LITTLE PIED CORMORANT, LARGE PIED CORMORANT, HERON
and CRESTED TERN. A SKYLARK was singing and
YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS were in the Cypruses as

[9.7.47] I so well remember.
When we arrived at Buenelle I was greeted with
CRIMSON ROSELLAS, a WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER and a GREY
FANTAIL – a very welcome trio to find in one's own
garden.

20.7.47 Besides the three birds mentioned above, Colac was
~~COLAC~~ soon found to have a large population of its own.
(22) MAGPIE-LARKS, MAGPIES and even a KOOKABURRA was heard
calling in the morning (though it is possible that it
was not a wild bird). TURTLE DOVES were plentiful
in pairs, and these I can never remember having
seen in Colac before. SPARROWS and STARLINGS of course!
~~YELLOW~~ RED-WATTLE-BIRDS are plentiful, particularly round
the Hospital. But the most surprising increase
in the numbers of SILVER GULLS which are all over
Colac in small groups or in large flocks, feeding
in back-yards, roads and empty blocks. The variety
and number of birds was well exemplified by a
walk Joan and I took through the gardens on
this Sunday – a fine sunny afternoon, STRIATED
THORNBILLS, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, GOLDFINCHES, BLACKBIRDS,
SWALLOWS, WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER, NATIVE THRUSHES and
CRIMSON ROSELLAS in large numbers in that immature
plumage which once puzzled me so. These birds,
with many of the others mentioned above were in

[20.7.47] the Gardens and by the Lake were WHITE-FACED HERONS,
an EGRET, LITTLE BLACK CORMORANTS, BLACK DUCK, BLUE-WINGED
SHOVELLERS (a pair) and MUSK DUCK. It was
subsequently noticed that there is constantly present
in the bay east of the Point a party of six or so
of the latter duck which are so distinctive – even when
they are almost only dots on the water. A single
PLOVER (species?) flew along the shore, calling. All these
together with a SILVER-EYE which was heard singing a
very soft melodious song from the rhododendrons in
Brenelle brings the Colac species within twelve days
of arrival up to twenty-six!

27.7.47 We went for the day down to Lorne, lunching at
(15) the Pacific Hotel and going for a walk up the Cumberland
in the afternoon. On the way down beside MAGPIES
and SWALLOWS we saw a beautiful flock (circ 200)
SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOOS feeding on hay in a paddock
which had been put down for cattle. Keeping up a
constant harsh call they would walk along into the
wind, all the time odd birds flying up to the front.
On alarm they would all rise together and the yellow
under wing coverts were beautifully shown. In Lorne
was seen a female or immature BLUE WREN, a WHITE-
CHEEKED HONEYEATER, MAGPIE-LARK, while on the shore were
SILVER GULLS and one ~~BAN~~ PLOVER (species). Up the

[27.7.47] CUMBERLAND we saw a pair of GREY CURRAWONGS whose call I had forgotten, YELLOW ROBINS whose call was again everywhere, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS and STRIATED THORNBILLS one of which was so tame that it remained literally at our feet as we approached, GREY FANTAILS feeding in the rain from branches and over the river, KOOKABURRAS (silent again!) and on a stone in the middle of the stream a ROSE ROBIN – the existence of which I had completely forgotten.

11, 13.8.47 (8) On these two windy showery days I got calls to Larpent. MAGPIES were plentiful everywhere, particularly by a pine plantation. From the ground on the windward side they would rise and sweep up and backwards over the pines. MAGPIE-LARKS were all round water and farms. The NATIVE THRUSHES were extremely common on the roads by young plantations and by farms where also were WILLIE-WAGTAILS + SCARLET ROBINS. A pair of EASTERN ROSELLAS rose from the trees by a stream and nearby a flock of GOLDFINCHES on a haystack was watched over by a BROWN HAWK perched on a fence-post.

14.8.47 (19) A call came to go down to Yeodene. MAGPIES + MAGPIE-LARKS were plentiful throughout the open country. On Ball's Dam were PURPLE-WATER-HENS just where I had always remembered seeing them, feeding on the banks by the most "rushy" part of the dam. On

[14.8.47] the open water were COOTS (a Touch of ENGLAND) and LITTLE GREBES. SWANS were everywhere on the water and feeding on the squelchy banks and there were also ten nests each occupied with a sitting bird. With the weather wet and bleak they struck me as very early (as of course the first nesting bird in each season does!) SWALLOWS and FAIRY MARTINS fed low over the water.

The ridge from the edge of the bush (where parrots are always to be seen – EASTERN and CRIMSON ROSELLAS this time) along to Yeodene + Culliamurra is packed with birds and is the most fruitful hunting ground I have found so far – NATIVE THRUSHES, SCARLET + FLAME ROBINS, YELLOW ROBINS and KOOKABURRAS (much on the ground) BLUE WRENS – two beautiful males and a flock of RED-BROWED FINCHES, which kept moving just in front of me as I walked up the track. A flock of SULPHUR CRESTED COCKATOOS was seen in the distance wheeling over the bush. A pair of SHELDUCK rose from a paddock and flew swiftly off.

16.8.47 On a trip to Melbourne I had a good day. A CROW on a nest in a solitary gum by ~~B~~ Warncoot with of course the MAGPIES and MAGPIE-LARKS always. WILLIE-WAGTAILS by every plantation, flying out from branch or post to flutter 4 or 5 feet over the ground

[16.8.47] GOLDFINCHES in small flocks but more than one became accustomed to in England, while the SKYLARKS were soaring and singing. SWALLOWS appeared to be on the increase but no definite movement was noted. YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS were seen by nearly every young plantation at the roadside. A solitary SHELDUCK by Bleak House was feeding in a marsh and a KESTREL was seen, just as its English counterpart, hovering over a paddock. STARLINGS, though seen frequently, were never in large flocks – perhaps it is not now the season. A WHITE-FRONTED CHAT surprised me by appearing at Armytage on the road side and there was another one by Lara though that was nearer where I remember them. In both places the sides of the road were sodden. Just going into WERRIBEE a flock of BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKES flew over the road – extremely handsome birds. As soon as Melbourne came – Footscray cemetery – the TURTLE-DOVES appeared, the SWANS were by the Old Swamp Road and finally the INDIAN MINAHS could be seen in large flocks, particularly by the river in Toorak. A drive along the Esplanade showed the SILVER GULLS

31.2.47 We took a picnic tea to Yeodene. It was pouring
(5) with rain on the drive out but eased as we boiled
the billy until eventually the wind dropped and it was
a moist calm evening. Even in the pouring rain
we had seen CRIMSON ROSELLAS at their usual place by
the road. When evening came birds all around us
broke into song. A pair of WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATERS
played from the twigs of a bush. Flying up into the
air and behaving exactly as do flycatchers or fantails.
The brilliant yellow wing-patch was the exact gold of
the wattle by which they were. BLUE WRENS were
singing vigorously and though many "brown" kinds were
seen – only one bluey. YELLOW ROBINS were heard with
their loud repetitive note gradually getting slower and weaker
as if they were running out of breath. MAGPIES too
were calling. Many other songs were heard – one
perhaps that of the White-plumed honeyeater but the
majority I did not recognize. The evening was drawing
in so that I could not search for and find the
originator of the song but Yeodene enhanced its
reputation for birds. In only one respect did
it fall short – Joan has still to hear her first Kookaburra!

9.9.47 This morning I was able to spend a few
(7) minutes in the morning by the Lake bank. There

[9.9.47] was not a breath of wind, the sky was pure
blue and even the lake looked beautiful. The
previous day had been blowing a gale from the
west with frequent heavy rainstorms. There had
not been a bird to be seen on or near the Lake.
This morning the ~~YELLOW~~ RED WATTLE-BIRD was in its
accustomed group of flowering gums. The WHITE-
FRONTED CHAT was seen for a flash in its haunt
at the western end of Queens Avenue. A single ~~BANDED~~
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER flew calling along the edge of the
lake, alighting by the shore where I had been
accustomed to see the pair. Whether one is
nesting I don't know but this one ran
daintily along the "seaweed" craning its head down
to feed. Four MUSK DUCK, three male + one female,
floated thirty yard out; one diving, the other
three being content to swim round and
round, simply looking wary. SILVER GULLS were
there but in few numbers. They are also not
so plentiful in Colac so I think that the
island in Lake Corangamite near Foxhow must
now be well tenanted. Far to the west, in
Six Bird Bay I could see the PELICANS. By
the waters edge near the Point were a pair
of WHITE-FACED HERONS. The grebes had gone!

13.9.47 Colac – The Lake Bank. I visited in the morning
(19) during my rounds. It was a perfectly still calm
day, nearly all the sky was blue – one of the
few days when L. Colac really rises above itself. Opposite
Queen's Avenue to the west of Colac there were SILVER
GULLS scattered over the lake, BLACK SWANS could
be immediately spotted in pairs at various parts of
the Lake – even in the centre by a pair of black
necks – like parallel lines drawn on the blue
water. The odd HERON stalked along the edge and
there was one perched on the end of the pier. One
LITTLE PIED CORMORANT was being harried by a pair of
gulls and LITTLE BLACK CORMORANTS were perched on
the wreck. A few MUSK DUCK floated off sure by
now an accept part of that end of the lake. Out
in the centre were scattered many duck whose
identity I could not find out. So beautiful was
it that I went down to Colac East and ran
out to the end of Church St. where I could look
over the mouth of the creek. There was a fine
selection – both species of CORMORANT, BLACK SWANS,
HERONS (again perched on a fence post), 3 PELICANS
sleeping soundly on a small spit, COOTS, CRESTED
GREBES and about 20 MOUNTAIN DUCK walking by
the water or afloat, upending for food. There were

[13.9.47] with them some BLACK DUCK. Near at hand were
MAGPIES, MAGPIE LARKS, BLACKBIRDS, SWALLOWS, STARLINGS,
SKYLARKS singing overhead, GOLDFINCHES twittering and
to the east the harsh cry of a scolding ~~BANDED~~ SPUR-WINGED
PLOVER. The day was still but the air was
full of the sound and song of birds.

13.9.47 Joan and I in the evening went for a
drive out along [?] Hill, Barongarook W, to
Irrewillipe. There we tried to get through to
Bungadir* [Bungador] but could not find a track. So we
made for Swan Marsh and returned via the
Stony Rises. It was an evening of bright sky and
heavy clouds piled in masses moving swiftly
from the west. The bush was wet from
showers. In the fringes of the bush we met a
few CRIMSON ROSELLAS and very many
EASTERN ROSELLAS, particularly round Irrewillipe
where they flashed by the car in pairs or
sat in gums twittering softly. Many MAGPIES
were seen as were their nests, but few MAGPIE-
LARKS. STARLINGS were everywhere and must
cause considerable competition for the parrots
for nesting sites in that area. Many MOUNTAIN
DUCK were seen singly in the field – possibly the
mate being sitting at the time. One very dirty

[3.9.47] SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO was feeding by itself in a paddock and, as Joan suggested, its discolouration may well have been due to nesting. In the bush were numerous GREY FLYCTCHERS, SCARLET ROBINS, YELLOW ROBINS, YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATERS and NATIVE THRUSHES. A single KOOABURRA was seen in open forest as were the ~~YELLOW~~ RED WATTLE-BIRDS in brush and saplings. One BLACKBIRD looked very out of place in the "township" of Irrewillipe. A BLACK-FACED CUCKOOSHRIKE was glimpsed by Irrewillipe. A BLUE-WREN and a BROWN HAWK were seen in the Rises and as we were just leaving them with the sun setting behind us a SILVER GULL flew, brilliantly white against a black cloud.

14.9.47 (43) After the fill up of the previous afternoon we made good use of my first week-end off for some weeks by rising at 6.0 A.M. and setting forth for Lorne. It was a glorious morning giving promise to an exceptionally fine day – what in fact it turned out to be. The morning was soft-coloured before the sun made the landscape hot. MAGPIES were on the plains in their hundred and as we passed Warncoort school a pair mobbed a ~~RAVEN CROW~~ RAVEN bringing it to the ground. One NOISY MINER was on a fence-

[14.9.47] post opposite Lanigan. All my memories of Noisy Miners are from the paddock below Lanigan, a fact which is emphasised by Mr. Vernon Dennis who say that though he knows of them in abundance in that spot he has only seen 2-3 at Korongee the whole time he has been there. A pair of SHELDUCK were flying round Tarndwarncoort and we met them again along Birregurra and Dean's Marsh. In the latter place a pair were leading nine very new chicks by some swamp water in a paddock. A pair of PIPITS and a pair of EASTERN ROSELLAS we saw at Warncoort. At Birregurra FAIRY MARTINS were feeding round the Barwon R. and CRIMSON ROSELLAS made their first appearance flying by the road a little further on. We stopped the car to watch a party of 3 FAN-TAILED CUCKOO and a PALLID CUCKOO – the first cuckoos in spring. In the tree in which the former were, were a pair of WILLIE-WAGTAILS singing most beautifully – "Timothy Twitchet-Twitchet" but changing to a scolding as I approached. They did not appear to react to the cuckoos in the same tree. As we stopped we had opportunity to see and hear in the stillness more of the birds on all hands –

[14.9.47] YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, MAGPIE-LARKS, ~~YELLOW~~ RED WATTLE-
BIRDS, SPARROWS, SKYLARK, KESTREL. A little further
on we stopped to watch a BROWN HAWK being
mobbed by a pair of ~~BANDED~~ SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, and a
few HERONS scattered on the low lands around
Dean's March. SWALLOWS were abundant here too.
Then we were up into the bush where
we immediately were greeted with the call of
the NATIVE THRUSH and BLUE WREN, and the sight
of STRIATED THORNBILLS, YELLOW ROBINS and
SCARLET ROBINS. We drove over to Allenvale (to
the car's surprise) and parked it by the George R.
With the two latter species, the GREY-FANTAILS made
a trio which were all about us. The Scarlet
Robin was the only one not singing and was
found in the more open parts and on the fringe
of the bush. Sparrows, I fear, were loitering
round the farm-house. Friendly as they are in
cities their place is <u>not</u> Allenvale. GOLDFINCHES,
Magpies and Swallows were in the more open
paddocks cut in the bush while on the
fringes and in the bracken were Blue Wrens
and RED-BROWED FINCHES. Up on the hill-sides
were seen and heard the GREY CURRAWONGS,
calling "currawong", "clink-clink"(which makes me

[14-9-47] wonder if they may not be Clinking Currawongs) and
a curious harsh high note which at first puzzled
us.
Then into the bush proper on the Phantom Falls
track – the smell of the bush strong and fresh –
where the Native Thrushes were singing in all
directions, Striated Thornbills flitted across the path
though not in such large numbers as the Yellow-
tailed Thornbills and YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATED *[HONEYEATER]
chipped away in the wattle. A WHITE-CHEEKED
HONEYEATER climbed up a tree very much as a
tree-creeper feeding on insects in the bark. FLAME
ROBINS were met with singly in the bush, the
hen being very different to the hen Scarlet Robin,
with no red on the breast and pinkish wing-bars.
Back at Allenvale for lunch and a very
quiet stroll after lunch by the George, we
saw a large flock of SILVEREYES. So used
am I to them in gardens and parks, they
looked very much as if they had "gone bush".
A Fantail and Cuckoo was heard trilling by Allenvale
and a ~~J~~ JACKY WINTER sat on a fence-post by
an open paddock. RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRDS were heard
We left Allenvale in early afternoon
and got onto the Ocean Road. SILVER GULLS

[14-9-47] of course were on the rocks but not in great numbers. Just as we left Lorne a pair of GANNETS came down the coast flying SW at about 100 above the still blue water. One dived, straight as an arrow with tremendous force. Though they often feinted no other dive was seen before they became white specks against the bush on the headland. In our drive along to Airey's Inlet we saw white cheeked Honeyeaters, BLACKBIRDS, Blue Wrens, Striated Thornbills, a scrub-wren of sorts (I must track one down one of these days) and Yellow-Wattle-birds.

As we came into Airey's Little Pied Cormorants were drying their wings in the afternoon sun. We spent the evening with the Allan Nobles. By their house, Anganock [guess], is a swamp (lagoon sic) on which are a mixture of duck. The wild BLACK DUCK have been crossed with the farm yard variety and Mallards – the results being most confusing. They came to feed at Mr Nobles call puddling round us – one even stepped on my feet. HOARY-HEADED GREBES were also nesting on the swamp and the previous year had caused a nuisance of themselves by diving up

[14.9.47] under the ducklings, grabbing + breaking their legs.
We made our trip back by night –
the only bird we saw being a BARN OWL at
Moriac, just where I had seen one previously.
It was a truly magnificent day – what in fact
I had been dreaming about for the last
few years. And Joan heard her first KOOKABURRA,
once in the bush at Deans Marsh, then when
at the Nobles at Aireys Inlet.

28.9.47 Joan and I had an invitation to lunch at
(30) Turkeith and set off at midday. It was a showery
day with high winds but with periods of sun
which freshened the plains. The birds we met
by Warncoort were the same as we have met
on many recent occasions, even as far as a
pair of MAGPIES mobbing a CROW in exactly the
same place as a fortnight ago. Having turned
off to the left we broke new ground onto the
plains with the rocky volcanic outgrowths in all
directions making the land undulating. In a
paddock were large numbers of ~~Crows~~ RAVENS – and
they were still there on our return in the afternoon.
The Magpies and MAGPIE-LARKS were scattered in
pairs across the plains. PIPITS were seen in fair
numbers but only one SKYLARK. A LITTLE GRASS-WREN

[28.9.47] flew hastily for cover off the road into the tussocks ,a
BROWN HAWK sat on a fence-post but was not long left in
peace for it was soon mobbed by a pair of excited
~~BANDED~~ SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS, a pair of MOUNTAIN DUCK had three
chicks with them, making off at high speed, the hen
with the chicks, the cock, a much larger bird bringing
up the rear. A flock of YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS flew
up from the road, yellow flashing, as they made for
a young gum plantation. A HERON and a pair
of WHITE-FRONTED CHATS completed our list on the
way out.

Turkeith has a wonderful garden which
was alive with birds – GOLDFINCHES being everywhere,
the air full of their sweet twittering. A BLACKBIRD
plumped on the lawn, tail up. The most
noticeable birds however were a pair of RESTLESS
~~flycatchers~~ FLYCATCHERS hovering over the lawn and
diving down to the ground. Their action was
quite different to the WILLIE-WAGTAIL (which we saw
just outside the garden, one bird riding on a
sheep's back) for they rose from the ground, hovered,
and dived down. Only once did we see one
perched on a look-out. Their excited grating
call was uttered as they hovered just before
they darted for an insect – a kind of Tally ho!

[28.9.47] SPARROWS were round the buildings and STARLINGS at one stage further removed. A flock of immature CRIMSON ROSELLAS shrieked and piped in the trees, a WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER fluttered silently from bush to bush and SWALLOWS twittered endlessly as they fed over the lawn and flew up under the eaves.

Mr. Ramsay and I talked birds a great deal. He showed me his bird book in which he kept notes on birds (as well as flowers and animals) since 1909 at least. The entries under Brolga and Bustard were interesting as indeed were many other entries. He took me to a plantation near a swamp and as we walked through it I counted twenty-one SNIPE rise and zig-zag off over the ~~[?]~~ trees uttering their harsh grating call. On the swamp itself were a pair of BLACK DUCK and a solitary SILVER GULL perched on a stone.

On the way back, a mile or so south-east of Mt Gellibrand a parrot got up from the side of the road. I got out and went back. I was well rewarded by the sight of a BLUE-WINGED PARROT feeding by the road, its head jerking up and down. When flushed it flew low to a

[28.9.47] fence before returning to the ground. It called with a sweet twittering note – my first New Bird since I got back.

At Larrigan where we had tea we were in the open forest type of country peculiar to that spot, mannah* [manna] gums scattered on the hill. The first and most noticeable bird was the NOISY MINER, "noisy and in flocks.". Second in conspicuousness was the EASTERN ROSELLA in noisy flocks, feeding on the ground or darting between the trees. FAIRY MARTINS and ~~YELLOW~~ RED-WATTLE BIRDS abounded and over the house flew a WHISTLING EAGLE. That patch of typical country yielded five very typical birds.

4.10.47 (30) Joan had gone down by the morning train to Geelong and as soon as I could get away I drove down and joined her. We then drove out to Anakie Gorge, marvelling at the stamina I had at school to do that distance and arrive at dawn – a dawn which I well remember for the birds were calling their first of the day in all directions, a chorus I have never forgotten.

The first bird to attract our attention was a JACKY WINTER flying off from a fence post and

[4.10.47] calling sweetly. A little way away were a pair of RESTLESS FLYCATCHERS, hovering in the manner so typical of them. A PIPIT sat on the side of the road looking up at us, and several ~~sky~~ SKYLARKS sang out of sight in the sky. MAGPIES, RAVENS, GOLDFINCHES were in the fields about us and on the edge of the bush to our left MAGPIE LARKS and NATIVE THRUSHES were heard. KOOKABURRAS laughed more consistently than I have heard since my return. An AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK flew along the edge of the timber and I was out of the car to start looking for the birds!

EASTERN ROSELLAS flew screaming between the trees and RED WATTLE-BIRDS made their extraordinary calls. A well-remembered bird of that part was the NEW-HOLLAND HONEYEATER which flew in flocks noisily chasing each other in the foliage. A flock of YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS flew by and as we entered the bush proper we saw a pair of immature CRIMSON ROSELLAS sitting side by side on a bough.

Crossing a stream we came up onto a small level area in which grew a few young saplings and round about was thicker bush. I've just stood and watched as the birds came to us.

[4.10.47] First a WHITE-NAPED HONEY-EATER came and fed, clinging upside down in the foliage. A RUFOUS WHISTLER flew from tree to tree uttering a brief song. A TREE-CREEPER crept upwards but not mouse-like as his English counter-part. BLUE WRENS and YELLOW ROBINS sang all about us. A DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW flew up and made a high piercing trill, while two DIAMOND SPARROWS sat on a twig and jumped up and down as if testing its strength.

We walked on up to Gorge and came across a flock of SILVEREYES and two EASTERN SHRIKE-TITS. One WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER was seen, easily confused with the New Holland, if not carefully looked for. GREY FANTAILS of course were present. Suddenly a wild clapping of wings from our right and up from the stream, quacking loudly flew two BLACK DUCK.

Back at the car before we left a SWALLOW flew round us and a pair of SWAMP HAWKS were pouncing in a nearby field. I had forgotten what a good place ANAKIE was for birds but while we were there they were around in hundreds.

5.10.47 This was the last Sunday Joan and I

(40) would have Á deux so we drove out on

[5.10.47] the Apollo Bay road. The weather was grey and
showery with a few bright patches but it
was mild and very pleasant driving. Out
on the plateau above Colac we immediately
ran into the trio – MAGPIES, RAVENS, MAGPIE-LARKS,
the former in large numbers. At Ball's Dam a
PURPLE WATER-HEN fed a chick along the bank which
was carefully imitating its parent. SWANS led
well grown cygnets but a rise in the water-level
appears to have swamped many nests that I saw
on August 14th. COOT and WATER HEN were
there as were a HERON, SWALLOWS, FAIRY MARTINS,
a ~~BANDED~~ SPURWINGED PLOVER and a WILLIE-WAGTAIL. A
solitary MUSK DUCK swam on the dam. At the
far end a MOUNTAIN DUCK stood by the water.
By a farm – a SPARROW of course.
Onto the edge of the bush by Yeodene
and a pair of EASTERN ROSELLAS flew across
the road. A NOISY MINER and a pair
of BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKES were two new birds
to the locality. STARLINGS and RED WATTLE-BIRDS
were two newcomers to that piece of open
forest.
Into the bush and the BLUE WREN and
SCARLET ROBIN were immediately in evidence.

[5.10.47] Further in Gerangamete were YELLOW-ROBINS,
GREY FANTAILS and a single YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER.
Then to our surprise there floated over the bush
a pair of WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES, soaring round and
round till they finally disappeared. A solitary
SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO made a lovely picture
as it flew over the bush. NATIVE THRUSHES and
CRIMSON ROSELLAS were deep in the bush at
Barramunga, as were BLACK BIRDS and GOLDFINCHES.
I notice that the two taller birds are frequently
found in the same habitat in the bush, in
partially cleared land. A WHITE-EARED
HONEYEATER made loud fussy calls as we
approached Mt. Sabine where we also met
KOOKABURRAS, PIED CURRAWONGS and a RED-BROWED
FINCH. Then we spotted a WHITE GOSHAWK
sitting on the top of a burnt stump. A really
beautiful sight. When it flies the wings give
its motion a peculiar softness, not unlike that
of a cockatoo. Its yellow legs are striking. Just
before we moved on we saw the other one of
the pair. Very little was seen or heard in
Turtou's Pass where we had lunch but on emerging
at Olangolah we saw a pair of GREY CURAWONGS
– with stupid walk like an oversized starling

[5.10.47] Passing along the ridge to Beech Forest there is a pine plantation on the left in which sat a solitary Crimson Rosella and a large flock of Goldfinches flew down from the trees to the open ground. We here saw a solitary YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL. Descending from Beech Forest we again saw a pair of WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES. They were soaring out from the hillside at about our level and it was interesting to see them use one side of their wedged tail for steering. A little further down we saw a third WHITE-GOSHAWK at first in a tree with much foliage and from there it flew to a fence-post by the road. Another view of a beautiful bird.

The only further bird seen was in the Gellibrand Valley where DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOWS were numerous. One bird, the FLAME ROBIN which we saw in Turtons Pass brings to a very handsome total the birds seen during the day, particularly as nearly the whole time was spent in the car.

23.10.47 (19) I had a call to Balintore in the morning – the northern shores of Lake Colac. Heavily settled with dairy farms it is an undulating country liberally strewn with volcanic rocks with groups of pine trees and cypruses *[cypresses].

[23.10.47] At the end of Ryan's Lane which runs eastwards to the northernmost tip of the Lake is a small flooded swamp on which were hundreds of birds. It was a cold day with a strong SW wind bringing up heavy showers and I decided to come back in two days time, on my afternoon off to investigate further. The only bird I saw then which was not present when I returned was the WHISKERED TERN – a small party of which was beating up and down the shore.

25.10.47 I returned on a warm afternoon with a slight
(22) breeze to the same spot – equipped with camera which I had no opportunity to use. Of the birds of that particular country-side the most common was the MAGPIE of which many young immature birds were seen on the ground. MAGPIE-LARKS, RAVENS STARLINGS, SPARROWS, SKYLARKS (singing magnificently) and PIPITS were all to be expected in that habitat. The ubiquitous YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL was there in small parties as were a very large number of GOLDFINCHES. Both the latter species I think were particularly abundant because of the pines and cypruses, from which the twittering of the GOLDFINCHES could always be heard. The odd WILLIE WAGTAIL fluttered over the road-side pool and here on the first day was a flock of SWALLOWS which hovered into

[25.10.47] the wind a few inches from the water. On my second day the only bird I saw was one which came, beak snapping, low over the meadow in the evening. A single KESTREL hovered over the stones. SILVER GULLS were in large flocks behind the plough or in the wet fields, they flew singly over the paddocks swinging from side to side, but very few were on the swamp itself. HERONS stood singly by the water, one flying low over me croaking, to settle on a stone on top of an outcrop, crouched forward, statuesque.

On the surface of the swamp were SWANS – I counted 432 of them, most of them feeding with necks extended down, bills dabbling on the bottom. Among them were many MOUNTAIN DUCK, some with young while on a nearby sodden paddock was a flock of fifty or so. Hundreds upon hundreds of BLACK DUCK floated on the surface, rising in flocks to circle at great speed before swishing onto the water again.

On the edge of the swamp were WHITE-HEADED STILTS poised on long legs, heads thrown forward, bills sinking into the moist grass. As I was lying on the ground one flew over me – rose-red legs trailing – yelping like a small puppy. Also by the water were Sandpipers, moving from one spot to another in silver

[25.10.47] flocks, or feeding in small groups. By crawling to them
on the ground I could approach within a few yards.
At first they seemed through the glasses to be just
brown and white birds. I watched for an hour,
feeding, walking, flying, preening or sleeping, by the end
of which I felt I knew every feather and they were
a "distinct species" not just a sandpiper. They were
COMMON SANDPIPERS which I had last seen on the
banks of the Derwent at Borrowdale!
I walked southwards on the west side of the ~~la~~
swamp to the Lake from which it was separated by some
hundred yards of dry land. There were twenty-five
PELICANS which swam disdainfully out as I neared,
more SWAN and ~~B~~ MOUNTAIN DUCK as well as several
pairs of LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS and a single MUSK DUCK.
The sun was low as I returned the other side of the
swamp and the wind brought across to me the
cacophony of SWANS – flute-like calls as the *[they] fed in
numbers on the swamp.

26.10.47 On the following day – a warm and rather close one-
(29) I went in the afternoon to Yeodene, To the north and
west was bush which had at one time been cleared and
is now a new growth of gums while a few hundred
yards away is a gully as deep and wet as any in
the Otways. To the south is a beautiful view of

[26.10.1947] Barwon Downs with the Otways in the distance. The air was full of bird song.

The most striking bird was the WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER whose call came from all quarters -- "Kyoo – rup," rich and fruity while they preened or explored the bark and the leaves of the gums. Many YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATERS also were calling from the bush. YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS and STRIATED THORNBILLS fluttered from bush to bush. In the wide open country KOOKABURRAS and MAGPIES called, MAGPIE-LARKS fed on the ground while BLUE WRENS sung from the bracken.

I then walked into the scrub where a YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER sat preening itself in silence in a bush. A PEREGRINE FALCON flew like an arrow over the bush. In a short time it reappeared flapping vigorously to gain height before swooping with wings half-closed on a WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE which glided serenely and undisturbed to the south. Over the bush flew a pair of RAVENS, cawing loudly while from the depths came the song of the NATIVE THRUSH. I dropped down into the gully and a pair of WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WRENS were feeding silently close-by. A YELLOW ROBIN fluttered to a sapling where it stuck sideways, watching me with bright eyes. Their call was not nearly so common as it was a month or so ago. Up out of the

[26.10.1947] gully I made a circle back to the car through scrub
where a RESTLESS FLYCATCHER flew uttering a sharp
grating note to proclaim its identity, and a party of
RED BROWED FINCHES flew over, their mournful note proclaiming
theirs. Back at the car a BLACKBIRD flew, startled, out
of a bush, clacking loudly and discordantly. A BLACK-
FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE sat on the limb of a dead tree
grating harshly. RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRDS were heard.
On the way back EASTERN ROSELLAS were seen
in the patch of open forest while both PIPITS and
SKYLARKS flew by the road as it ran between paddocks.
Two flocks of BANDED PLOVERS on each side of the road
fed with little runs in the grass. Passing Ball's Dam
I noticed a flock of 26 [guess] SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS, SWANS,
HERONS, EASTERN SWAMP-HENS and a pair of MOUNTAIN
DUCK. A single DABCHICK swam on the surface of
a small dam in a paddock, but when I got
out to investigate it disappeared completely and
apparently for good.

15.11.47 We took tea out to Yeodene, including Michael, three
(37) and a half weeks old. We went up the hill just
beyond Culliamurra [guess] drawing the car in just where
the bush starts after the valley clearing.
In Balls* [Ball's] Dam on the way we saw the
EASTERN MOORHENS which had left the bank for the

[15.11.47] centre of the dam, DUSKY MOORHENS, COOTS, SWANS, GULLS, SWALLOWS, FAIRY MARTINS and in exactly the same place as before the flock of SPUR-WINGED PLOVER. In the pines above the dam were YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS and a WILLIE-WAGTAIL while in the surrounding country there were the MAGPIES, MAGPIE-LARKS, GOLDFINCHES, STARLINGS and SKYLARKS. No Ravens were seen but new inhabitants of the dam were a group of BLACK DUCK. At the first turn past the dam we stopped by a Blue-tongued Lizard on the road. It curled + bucked as we stood over it, with mouth open and blue tongue waving. I picked it up and got well nipped by a closely-set row of fine teeth. Just further on we came across the BANDED PLOVER, on either side of the road, exactly where they were twenty days before. Both species of Plover would appear to be extraordinarily local.

In the open forest on the ridge we saw EASTERN ROSELLAS and NOISY MINERS. Going down into the bush were the songs of the WREN, NATIVE THRUSH, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER and YELLOW ROBIN. As we descended into the valley a small dark Wallaby bounced off the road.

We strolled down a track in the bush – the

[15.11.47] sun warm and the bush smelling strongly. A pair
of WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATERS fed in the outer foliage of
the young gums, STRIATED THONNBILLS *[THORNBILLS] and GREY FANTAILS
were extremely plentiful. A WHITE-THROATED ~~WOOD-SWALLOW~~
TREE-CREEPER bathed in a pool in the track and preened
himself at stops en route the ~~the~~ tree-top. A WHITE-BROWED
SCRUB-WREN rather surprisingly hopped up onto the top
of a log surveying the bush about him.
Back at the car a SCARLET ROBIN hovered
round as we had tea. I then walked on the fringe
of the bush in open forest and first saw a pair
of DUSKY WOODSWALLOWS ~~HAWKING~~ hawking above the trees.
A JACKY WINTER flew from stump to stump and eventually
flew angrily at a KOOKABURRA which flew off to join
several others in a wild chorus of laughing. CRIMSON
ROSELLAS fringed the bush and from the stream below
rose a solitary HERON. A KESTREL flew over the bracken
from a dead ring-barked tree. The last sounds from
the bush as we left were the calls of YELLOW-FACED
HONEYEATERS and a FANTAIL CUCKOO. As we
climbed out of the valley a large grey kangaroo
thumped along by the car.

16.11.47 The following day I set out at 5.45 am for
(28) Grub Lane on the Geelong-Queenscliffe Road to
join the G.G.S. Bird Club camp under Mr

[16.11.47] Ponder. Bright and sunny as I set off it soon clouded over and became cool. During the morning the clouds cleared until at midday it was hot and cloudless with very little wind. I arrived at 7 o'clock to find them clearing away breakfast with some others still to come in. I had a bit to eat and set off to find Mr Ponder.

It was dry bush on sandy soil with little growth other than Black-boy and a coarse grass. Below are photos I took showing the type of bush it is. [photo]

Nearby was a reservoir, with little water in it extensive reeds and mud flats surrounding the reservoir was [photo] light scrub and one large field of wheat. We met Ponder returning from setting up his camera at the

[16.11.47] [photo]
nest of a BLACK-FACED
CUCKOO-SHRIKE. We
returned and had
some breakfast. The
camp was in a
clearing and the
birds immediately
obviously were WILLIE
WAGTAILS, flitting round and singing. The boys
had been looking for a nest and later in the
day I found the beginnings of a nest on a
horizontal gum bough some 4 ft from the ground.
It had not yet been firmly bound to the
bough and looked most unstable as the bird
stood on it, working fresh material into it.
WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATERS abounded in large
numbers, being definitely the dominant bird of
their family. I saw one nest later – a thin
cup shaped structure of fine grasses slung amongst
the foliage on the periphery of a young gum.
Many too I found lying on the ground. NATIVE
THRUSHES were singing all about as also were BLUE
WRENS at a nest of which I later watched ~~PONDER~~
Ponder setting up his camera. A thin dome-shaped

[16.11.47] nest, it was 4 1/2 ft from the ground in a bush, made of small grasses and containing young Throughout the day I found as many "Blueys" as I did brown birds NOISY MINERS were also in this type of bush and it ~~who~~ was noticeable that they kept to that part where there was little or no undergrowth – photo (2). They were also found in the pine plantation by the reservoir.

After breakfast we set out to the Black Faced Cuckoo-shrikes nest where the camera was set up – some 15 ft up on a monopod rather by God and by guess but seven pictures were eventually taken. We then moved on to the other end of the reservoir where a camera was set up at the nest of a Native Thrush in a pine, leaving a bag hidden in a ditch, with a long string trailing. With one bag I walked round the reservoir back to the camp. EASTERN ROSELLAS and STARLING were plentiful in the bare open land. While a SWAMP-HAWK flew high over a wheat-field where it was thought to have a nest. SWALLOWS and FAIRY MARTINS hawked insects over the water, and along the edge were many pairs of WHITE-FRONTED CHATS

[16.11.47] and two BLACK-FRONTED DOTTREL *[DOTTEREL]. Walking on the stones at the end of the dam was a COMMON SANDPIPER with well marked ~~grey~~ brownish neck and the same tail-pattern as those seen on Lake Colac. One SNIPE rose and zig-zagged away over the reeds. Approaching the bush again we met MAGPIE-LARKS and SKYLARKS while on the open ground round about were a pair of SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, MAGPIES and RAVENS. As we met the bush we saw a KOOKABURRA and in a young gum was an EASTERN SHRIKE-TIT.

I then set about photographing a DUSKY-WOODSWALLOW on her nest which was built in the space between the trunk and the bark which curved away from it. It was some six feet from the ground and the tripod was erected on "extensions", the camera set at six feet and the rubber tubing attached. Very quickly the bird returned and with press of the bulb my first bird photo was taken. Another five quickly followed, the bird being either on the nest or just approaching. I then moved off to the nest of a ~~yellow~~ YELLOW ROBIN which was even tamer and easier. In fact I even tried time exposures of up to 10 seconds of

[16.11.47] f64 but over exposed the film! The results were fair – in fact most encouraging – though the subjects were a bit small in the finished result.

After lunch I went for an extensive walk and met in addition a NEW-HOLLAND HONEYEATER and heard the GREY-BUTCHER-BIRD though never saw it. I flushed a young BRONZEWING PIGEON which rose with a clatter and overhead a WHISTLING EAGLE floated above the bush.

The boys packed up and were in the truck soon after 3:30 pm and as I was manoeuvring my car out of the lane where it had been parked I noticed a BLACK-FRONTED DOTTREL giving a threat-display in front of my wheel. There, where I had nearly run over it, was a nest, right in the centre of the lane with three eggs. They had been looking for it during the whole week-end and it was only found when it was too late to take any pictures! I had a superb day – a Saturday-party again in grand scale.

6 + 7.2.47 (33) On Saturday afternoon we took Michael and nurse down to Gellibrand, just beyond La Mimosa where the road begins to turn up to the left into the bush from the valley. The cleared valley reminded Joan and I of Ceylon with the paddy-fields surrounded by hills and mountains of jungle – but with a difference, tussocks, sheep and rabbits in the valleys! I wandered off to look out the lay of the land and find nests. I didn't wander far from the valley where there were GREY FANTAILS and BLUE WRENS singing in abundance. I soon found a female of the latter with material in her bill which I followed to a nearly completed nest, three feet from the ground in a tussock. SWALLOWS and MARTINS were feeding low over tussocks while RED-BROWED FINCHES fed among them on the ground. GANG-GANG COCKATOOS were heard and not seen. CRIMSON ROSELLAS with mature and immature flew & called noisily through the bush. Then to my surprise a pair of BLUE-WINGED PARROTS flew across the valley to settle on a dead tree. In the evening I again came upon them – three in all – which flew from the ground up to a dead tree where they perched silhouetted

[6 + 7.12.47] against an evening sky. YELLOW ROBINS and NATIVE-THRUSHES were of course plentiful and heard singing on every hand, though more than the song the thrushes gave their sharp 'Ee-aw'. Three KOOKABURRAS perched on stumps surrounding a paddock which was being ploughed, every so often gliding down on to the earth to feed. GOLDFINCHES and BLACKBIRDS were seen everywhere on cleared cultivated ground, the former quite silent. Also MAGPIE-LARKS were feeding daintily over the paddocks in pairs. A single BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE was seen in soft undulating flight over the bush. Another surprise in the bush was a SWAMP-HARRIER beating up and down a bracken covered hillside – far from the swamps and plains with which it is normally associated. Just before leaving a small falcon flew very swiftly along the valley – probably the LITTLE FALCON.

Next day I drove down early (disturbing a wallaby which was just packing a joey into her pouch before bounding into the bush off the road). I set up my camera at the Wren's nest I had found the day before but though both birds flew on to the tussock, neither visited the nest. After

[6+7.12.47] half-an-hour a flock of sheep surrounded me
and I packed up with a photo of the
nest but no bird. Then I climbed up
out of the valley to the top of the ridge,
along which I slowly made my way.
The Swamp Harrier was still there beating up
and down the same beat. A pair of ~~WHITE~~ DUSKY
~~BROWED~~ WOOD-SWALLOWS chased a WEDGE-TAILED
EAGLE gliding inexorably up the valley. The
previous evening I saw one of a pair of Eagles
in what was probably a courtship
flight – an undulating glide not dissimilar
to that of a pigeon.
In the bush were three common
Honeyeaters – YELLOW-FACED, WHITE-EARED and
NEW HOLLAND. Also were STRIATED THORNBILLS
dancing up from the bracken to the lower
twigs of the gums. A single GREY CURRAWONG
was seen. On stumps above the bracken
and near to each other were a FLAME
ROBIN and a JACKY WINTER each feeding
in a very similar manner. Though not
seen a FANTAIL CUCKOO'S trill was heard in
the bush as also was a mournful single
note of the ~~ORANGE-TIPPED~~ SPOTTED PARDALOTE.

[6 + 7/12/47] I then descended from the ridge down
some very thick scrub to the gully at the
bottom where the first bird saw was a
RUFOUS FANTAIL – a great friend of the thick, wet
gully. WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WRENS hopped
tamely nearby – always a surprise in a
bird that is more often heard than seen.
As I sat having lunch by an old saw-mill
three more honeyeaters appeared – WHITE-
NAPED, WHITE-CHEEKED and EASTERN SPINEBILL,
the latter the first meeting since my return
though I have been watching assiduously for
it. All around me on both days had
been heard the call of the RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD.
At last after a long period of still I moved.
There was a flash of rufous disappearing
into the bracken. At last I have actually
set eyes on the bird though ever since I
returned have been surrounded by
their calls. It was an extremely fine
week-end with good weather no snakes
but no nests either. However I spent
the whole day in close contact with the
bush (as wheals [guess] still showed next day) and
with its scent.

14.12.47 In the afternoon we went out to
Larrigan to play tennis. It was not by any
means a bird afternoon but there were five
birds present which [photo]
are typical of that
kind of country and
which I always
expect to find there.
Eastern Rosellas were
in large numbers,
mostly in pairs.
Noisy Miners were everywhere and one was
seen chasing a Pardalote. Mr Laurie Dennis told
[photo] me that they drive
all small birds
away. A Whistling
Eagle flew round
and among the
gums below the
house where it had
nested. It can be
seen just above Mt. Gellibrand! Lastly there
were Gang-gangs which at one time never
left the bush but now are such regular
visitors that they are missed if not present.

27.12.47 Joan and I drove with Aunt Molly through
(13) Beeac and North Cundane to Lake Corangamite.
The region north of the Wairions [guess] is volcanic, much
in contour as the Stony Rises but not wooded.
But there are the swamps and on these we
got beautiful views of AVOCETS, feeding in
pairs, walking into the wind along the shore,
swinging their bills to and fro under the water.
Another pair in the middle of the swamp were
floating down wind feeding in exactly the
same way as they went. Very many
COMMON SANDPIPERS flew and fed by the
shores. HERONS rose singly from the water's
edge, only few SILVER GULLS were seen, and
those singly throughout the district. Five or six
WHISKERED TERNS were fluttering above one
particular swamp.
We walked out to the end of
~~PELICAN~~ Pelican Point. In the Lake were large
numbers of MOUNTAIN DUCK which rose in
flocks as I approached. The shore was
alive with waders – RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL,
Curlew-Sandpipers and RED-NECKED stint easily
distinguished from the commoner species
by its smaller and broader form. SPUR-WINGED

[27.12.47] PLOVERS rested in pairs by the lake's edge. In the country round about were seen SKYLARKS, WHITE-FRONTED CHATS and a SWAMP-HARRIER, the latter feeding along the shore.

28.12.47 (30) A hot sunny day I spent by myself exploring the Stony Rises between Pirron Yallock and Pomborneit. I turned down the Hawk's Nest Road where I saw (a family of?) four WHISTLING EAGLES about a swamp, perched on rocks and stumps watching carefully. I stopped after about six miles just by a large and very dead snake on the road. Though I spent the whole day scrambling over the rocks in that notorious snake country I never caught site *[sight] of a live one though I kept a very careful watch out. I did a large circuit from the road, climbing over the [photo] rocky borders down into the steep valleys between them, none of which in that part I found to be swampy. The predominant honey-eater was immediately

[28.12.47] seen to be the WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER which was
excessively common. Shortly I disturbed a flock
of SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOOS which when it caught
sight of me started the most extraordinary
din imaginable. Several birds flew round me
[photo] and settled in the
trees in a ring
about me setting up
a continual ear-
splitting cacophany* [cacophony].
After about half
an hour they departed
leaving an almost
uncanny silence upon the bush which was
in reality filled with bird-song. Next I came
upon the nest of a RED-TIPPED PARDALOTE some
twenty-five feet up in a gum, a small smooth
round hole in the [photo]
main trunk of
a gum. I spent
forty minutes timing
the visits of the
parents which were
evidently feeding
young. Actually the

[28.12.47] the whole district rang with their cries "whit-a-took"

Other birds seen in that part of the rises were –

BLUE WRENS	YELLOW WATTL-BIRD *[WATTLEBIRD]	KOOKABURRA
NATIVE THRUSH	DUSKY WOODSWALOW	BLACK-FACED CUCKOO SHRIKE
HERON	GOLDFINCH	KESTREL
EASTERN ROSELLA	STARLING	SKYLARK
MAGPIE	MARTIN	SWALLOW
MAGPIE-LARK	FANTAIL CUCKOO	YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER

For lunch I moved on across the Prince's Highway and turned south from Pomborneit. I made a circle of Mt Porndon and its ring, turning south again and stopping for lunch where the road almost touches the Ring. I climbed over the Barrier which is at that point about 30' [foot] high and sat for lunch on the inner slope looking round the ring. I was looking round in the trees for the birds when my eyes veritably lit upon a Koala! A large fellow, he was asleep in a fork with his back against the main bough and sitting in what looked like an extraordinarily uncomfortable position. From time to time it shifted position, scratched a very round tummy with small black paw and gave sleepy looks around it. I watched it for half-an-hour

[28.12.47] during which time it showed no inclination to move. So I made a circuit of the surrounding bush looking for others. The piece of bush in which it was was most circumscribed being roughly 20 acres with paddocks on all sides and I found no more. Birds additional to those already seen that day were –

PALLID CUCKOO	YELLOW ROBIN	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL
NOISY MINER	GREY BUTCHER-BIRD	SWAMP-HARRIER
GREY FANTAIL	COLLARED SPARROW-HAWK	

I came straight back to Colac then, collected Michael in his cot and Joan, and hurriedly returned to the Koala. It was still in the same spot and woke as we approached us, staring with small wondering eyes. I got beneath the tree and tapped the trunk. The "bear" climbed down the branch it was on to the main trunk up which it bounded uttering harsh cries. Scarcely stopping at all, it reached the topmost foliage where it apparently completely forgot us, proceeding to feed upon the young leaves. We were naturally thrilled with our find, returning home after a very fine day.

10,11-1-48 Joan and I spent the night with
(23) Michael at Lorne with Sheila Dennis. It
was not a real "bird-weekend" but I of
course kept notes. Walking along the cliff above
the rocks on the way to the beach I had
a perfect view of two PEREGRINE FALCONS,
perched in a dead gum above a busy
road and in front of the houses. Half
an hour later I was on the cliffs beyond
the pier and looking out to the sea when I
saw, lazily lifting itself over the waves, a
BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS, which took me back
most nostalgically to the Orion. And what
a contrast in avifauna within an hour –
and what a contrast in the perfection of
two different forms of flight!
In the garden of the house in
which we stayed I saw

BLACK-BIRD	KOOKABURRA	BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
GOLDFINCH	GREY FANTAIL	WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER
RED WATTLE-BIRD	NATIVE THRUSH	WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN
WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER	SWALLOW	STRIATED THORNBILL
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER	SPOTTED PARDALOTE	BLUE WREN

After lunch on Sunday I went
straight up the hill behind the house to

[10,11.1.48] Teddy's Look-out where a few more species were seen
YELLOW ROBIN MAGPIE SCARLET ROBIN
RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD
On the beach were silver GULLS and
three CRESTED TERNS. On the whole not a
very good total for Lorne (not even a parrot)
but as is shown much of the watching was
from the house where the birds were noted
in detail – and an Albatross was good to
see again!

25.1.48 The family and Aunt Molly who was
(24) staying with us went for lunch to Turkeith
It was a very hot day with a north wind,
trying conditions but a day I always
associate with the plains. In the plains as
we drove out were WHITE-FRONTED CHATS,
RAVENS, MAGPIES, BROWN HAWKS, KESTRELS,
SWAMP-HAWK and GROUNDLARKS. Around the
house in what is an oasis – their garden -
were BLACKBIRDS, huge numbers of GOLDFINCHES
WILLIE WAGTAIL, RESTLESS FLYCATCHER, RED WATTLE-BIRD
and SPARROWS.
In the afternoon I circled the
large swamp nearby which had a
very rich and varied population on its

[25.1.48] surface and round its shores. The first and
most outstanding bird was a solitary YELLOW-
BILLED SPOONBILL, very wary, flying long
before I got near it and when a mob
of sheep came dundling down to the water.
It flew with lazy beats around the swamp
before gliding down to a new position. Very
large flocks of SPUR-WINGED PLOVER stood on the
high banks while MAGPIE-LARKS fed singly by
the waters-edge. On the water were many
HOARY-HEADED GREBES, MOUNTAINDUCK, BLACK-DUCK
a few PINK-EARED DUCK & HARDHEAD. Every so
often the duck would rise, circling in large
flocks over-head, the faint hurrying rustle of
their wings and soft whistling betokening their
excitement. Many WHISKERED TERNS fed, diving
over the water, the solitary HERON arose
suddenly from ~~INVISIBILITY~~ invisibility and as
I walked round two SNIPES rose from close
to my feet.

It was a perfect day for swamp
birds particularly as the heat had
concentrated them near the water. But it
was not perfect for the watcher who returned
full of heat, grass-seeds and thirst.

1.3.48 Joan, Michael and I went out to Barangarook,
(23) to the old orchard where we had so many
picnics when I was young. It was a fine sunny
afternoon with a few clouds blown swiftly across
the sky. We were rather harassed by people ~~a~~
picking blackberries and having tea within a few
yards of us. On the trip out we saw in the more
open country MAGPIE-LARKS, STARLINGS, NOISY MINER and
EASTERN ROSELLAS. SWALLOWS are still plentiful both
in the open and in the bush and MAGPIES frequent
both.

As we drew up we were greeted by a GREY
FANTAIL, a pair of young BLUE WRENS, a YELLOW ROBIN
calling and the harsh cries of young CRIMSON ROSELLAS.
Joan and I walked down into the valley where
we heard but did not see the RED-TIPPED PARDALOTE,
saw a pair of DUSKY WOODSWALLOWS and a strangely
silent WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER. I heard a RUFOUS
BRISTLE-BIRD and stood on the edge of the scrub, still
for quarter of an hour. Though I heard rustlings
I did not catch sight of the bird. While I was
watching a BEAUTIFUL FIRETAIL came and perched on
the flowers of a tall rush, eating at the berries. I
did not recognize it – certainly, that it was
a brand "new bird". As I watched I also saw

[7.3.48] many WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATERS, mostly young in brown plumage. I returned up the hill to hear GANG-GANGS in the neighbourhood and see a flock of YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS disappear up into a tree. I also saw another thornbill which I at first thought was a striated thornbill but which had rather a reddish rump and white-tipped tail. White we were having tea an EASTERN SPINEBILL probed delicately in a nearby tree, a KOOKABURRA flew over and a RED WATTLE-BIRD cackled. I then went back to that thornbill, found him and at long last got a good look at him before he was chased away by a STRIATED THORNBILL. It was in fact a CHESTNUT-TAILED THORNBILL – the second brand "new bird" for the day. Which just goes to show what can be done on a Sunday's afternoon's outing.

9+10.3.48 (31)(36) (46) On the Monday + Tuesday I did the Moloney testing + immunisation of children at Forrest (9.0 am), Tanybryn (9.45 am), Apollo Bay (10.30), Beech Forest (1.30 pm) Gellibrand (2.30 pm) and Carlisle River (3.15 pm). It was a long trip, about 120 miles but each day gave beautiful weather and it was most enjoyable throughout. I took Taylor, the Borough Health Inspector, with me who

[9+10.3.48] proved good company and was not at all alarmed
by bird-watching while negotiating the bush roads.
Our first area of course, was the plateau over
Colac with its open paddocks and Ball's Dam. On the
former were MAGPIES, MAGPIE-LARKS, RAVENS and STARLINGS,
on the latter were SPUR-WING PLOVER, EASTERN SWAMP-HEN,
SWANS, WHITE-FACED HERON and three WHITE-NECKED HERON,
these latter I do not remember having seen in the
district before. On the first day there were also
MARSH TERNS on the dam.
On the second day EASTERN ROSELLAS and NOISY
MINERS were seen on the fringe of the bush. Monday
gave us immediately we entered the bush BLUE WRENS,
GREY SHRIKE-THRUSHES, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, WHITE-EARED
HONEYEATERS and YELLOW ROBINS. These, with GREY FANTAILS
are the "common-birds" of the bush and we were
very struck to find next day that they were all almost
absent except for the Grey Fantail. But on the second
day SWALLOWS were much in evidence. At Forest we
met SPARROWS, WHITE-THROATED SCRUB-WRENS, KOOKABURRAS,
a flock of SILVEREYES, and STRIATED THORNBILL. High up
round Mt. Sabine we met CRIMSON ROSELLAS, the adults
in pairs the immature in flocks, and a RESTLESS FLYCATCHER.
As we drew up at Tanybryn school a FLAME ROBIN sat
upon a fence.

[9+10.3.48] Then down the Wild Dog Road – 18 miles of hair-pin bends round which the car slithered on a very rough surface. The first bird in evidence was the BLUE-WINGED PARROT, three of which were seen on both journeys there and back (four times, in the same place. On the second morning they were being chased by a GREY GOSHAWK which they easily out-distanced. A KESTREL, GOLDFINCHES, BLACKBIRDS, RED-BROWED FINCHES and PIPITS were seen on this road as it wound down the steep, bald valley.

We lunched at Apollo Bay looking over the rocks and water by the pier. GULLS and CRESTED TERNS were abundant. On the second day, besides a solitary GANNET there were at least seven BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSSES circling in the bay just beyond the pier – an extraordinary and most gratifying sight. Back up the long wind to Burtons Track where we saw a RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD cross the road and several PIED CURRAWONGS. Two SCARLET ROBINS were seen and little new except a FAIRY MARTIN at BEECH FOREST until we came down to GELLIBRAND where there were DUSKY-WOOD-SWALLOWS, WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATERS and a pair of COLLARED SPARROW-HAWKS. At Barangarook on Tuesday there were a flock of GANG-GANGS.

15+16.3.48 (41)(41) (49)

On this Monday and Tuesday we did the other half of the Otways – Ferguson (9:00 am), Weeaproinah (9:30 am), Wyelangta (10:00 am), Lavers Hill (10:00 am), Kennedy's Creek (11:00 am) and Devondale (11:30 am). We had lunch on the Lower Gellibrand road where the bark of the trees had been torn to shreds, probably by Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Then on to Lower Gellibrand (1:05 pm) up to the ridge to Yullong at (1:45 pm) and down to Glen Aire (3:00 pm). It's a long road down from Lavers Hill and as I did not want to go back I went across the cape to Apollo Bay and home through Lorne arriving back at 4:00 pm – a twelve hour journey of 185 miles – very tiring but exceedingly fine country. The first day I had no passenger, but the second I took Deborah Gavens which made a lot of difference. The weather on both days was beautiful though on Tuesday we started off in cloud and mist. I will not enumerate in detail how we came upon each bird but pick out those of interest

BLUE-WINGED PARROTS were common all along the Ridge, on the Charley's Crk Rd and

[15+16.3.48] a large flock was seen flying low at great
speed at Glen Aire. One AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK
was seen at Weeaproinah a WHITE GOSHAWK on
both days, a KESTREL on the same post at
KENNEDY'S CREEK, A WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE high on
a dead tree at Yullong, a WHISTING EAGLE at
Glen Aire and as dusk was falling on the second
day a PEREGRINE flew over the car on the Ocean
Road. The Raptores *[Raptors] were well represented!
BRONZE-WING PIGEONS were met on both days
on the stretch of road between CHAPEL VALE and
Devondale. In a small pool high upon the
cliff by the Ocean Rd was a LITTLE GREBE. On
Tuesday the sea off the coast was in parts
almost covered by rafts of GANNETS.

SWALLOW DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW RED-BROWNED FINCH
CRESTED TERN
WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER KOOKABURRA RUFOUS FANTAIL
HERON
GREY-SHRIKE-THRUSH GREY FANTAIL RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD STRIATED
FIELDWREN
YELLOW ROBIN FLAME ROBIN MAGPIE-LARK GREY BUTCHER-
BIRD
STRIATED THORNBILL GOLDFINCH SCARLET ROBIN FANTAIL-CUCKOO
MAGPIE BLACKBIRD SWAN BLACK-FACED
CUCKOO-SHRIKE WREN STARLING SPUR-WINGED PLOVER
GANG-GANG
RAVEN NOISY-MINER MUSK DUCK YELLOW-TAILED
THORNBILL CRIMSON ROSELLA SPARROW SILVERGULLS FAIRY
MARTIN
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER WHITE-BROWNED SCRUB-WREN CHESTNUT-
TAILED GROUND-WREN

20-3-48 On Saturday afternoon Joan, Michael and I went
(31) out and had tea at Yeodene. It was a warm
afternoon, sunny with a beautiful view of the
Otways to the south. A GREY BUTCHER-BIRD sang down
in the valley and WRENS, NATIVE THRUSHES and ~~YELLOW~~
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATERS sang everywhere about. I was
particularly pleased to come across the STRIATED
FIELD-WREN at close quarters for I followed it and
watched for some time. Such an unobtrusive bird
has given me some trouble though it is common
enough to have become well known by now. Other
birds seen that afternoon

EASTERN-SWAMP-HEN	BLACK-BIRD	SCARLET ROBIN
DUSKY MOORHEN	WILLIE WAGTAIL	JACKY WINTER
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER	RESTLESS FLYCATCHER	NOISY MINER
WHITE-FACED HERON	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL	RED-BROWED FINCH
STARLING	EASTERN ROSELLA	KOOKABURRA
MAGPIE-LARK	WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER	CRIMSON ROSELLA
MAGPIE	GREY FANTAIL	GANG-GANG
RAVEN	YELLOW ROBIN	

11-3-48 The following day the family went down into
(41) the bush for the day – Gellibrand, Carlisle, Avondale,
Lavers Hill, Ferguson down the Charley's Crk Rd back to
Gellibrand. We had lunch on the Lower Gellibrand
where the cockatoos had had torn the bark off the

[11.3.48] the trees. There I was surprised to see a
KOOKABURRA glide down from a tree and dive with
semi-closed wings to submerge itself. It flew back
to its perch with a fish in its bill. There also was a
~~sacred~~ SACRED KINGFISHER bobbing up and down over
the river, and a WHITE GOSHAWK in a tree above
us heavily mobbed by smaller birds.

The lower ground ~~[?]~~ in the Gellibrand
Valley is heath-land of grass-trees, dry shrubs
and gums, frequently much burnt out. It is
very typical country and just before we got to
Carlisle I walked through it for half-an-hour
and saw – BLUE WRENS, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER
YELLOW-WINGED HONEY EATER,SWALLOW, FAIRY MARTIN,
STRIATED FIELD-WREN, SCARLET ROBIN, STRIATED THORNBILL
SILVEREYE, CRESCENT HONEYEATER, YELLOW ROBIN.

Other birds seen during the day –

EASTERN ROSELLA	YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER	ROSE ROBIN
CRIMSON ROSELLA	RED WATTLE-BIRD	EASTERN SPINEBILL.
MAGPIE	NOISY MINER	WHITE-NAPED HONEY-EATER
MAGPIE-LARK	BLACKBIRD	STARLING
NATIVE-THRUSH	BRONZEWING	WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE
GREY FANTAIL	PAINTED QUAIL	PIED CURRAWONG
~~KOOKABURRA~~ GOLDFINCH	CHESTNUT-TAILED ~~WAR~~GROUND-WREN	GANG-GANG
RAVEN	SPARROW	EASTERN SHRIKE-TIT
DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW	RED-BROWED FIRETAIL	SPINE-TAILED SWIFT

22+23.3.48 Another Monday + Tuesday on immunisation
(20)(26) this time in another direction: Swan Marsh (9.00 am)
(39) Pirron Yallock (9.30 am)., Cororooke (10.0 + 10.30); Balintore (1.0 pm), Alvie (1.30 pm), Warrion (2.0 pm), Ondit (2.30 pm).
Both were very hot cloudless days not unusual for this time of year. I was by myself but the trip was only 60 miles and I had ample opportunity to keep my eyes open for birds. On the second day I visited at lunch the west shore of Lake Colac because the swamp at Balintore which had been so fruitful in October was dry. There were there simply hundreds of MOUNTAIN DUCK, BLACK DUCK and SWAN, with lesser numbers of PELICANS, SILVER GULLS RED-CAPPED DOTTERELS, WHITE-FRONTED CHATS, BANDED PLOVER, LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT, PINK-EARED DUCK + MUSK DUCK (11).
At the end of each day I came over the Warncoort hill past Ball's Dam where the total of birds on both days was MAGPIE-LARK MAGPIE, RAVEN, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, STRAW-NECKED IBIS SWAN, WHITE-FACED HERON, DUSKY MOORHEN, EASTERN SWAMPHEN LITTLE GREBE, MOUNTAIN DUCK, BLACK DUCK, GULL-BILLED TERN, YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL, SWALLOWS, WILLIE-WAGTAIL, JACKASS, BROWN HAWK, WHISTLING EAGLE. (19)
Besides these, other birds seen in the two

[22+23.3.48] days were SKYLARK, GANG-GANGS, WHITE COCKATOO
PIPIT STARLINGS SPARROWS GOLDFINCH RED WATTLE-BIRD
NOISY MINER GREY FANTAIL YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL KESTREL.

[photo]
15,16, 21/3/48 (see pp 87 + 89)
A tree at Lower Gellibrand
the bark of which has
been torn to shreds by
cockatoos

[photo]
15,16, 21/3/48 see pp 87 + 89

The Lower Gellibrand River
showing the stretch of
water into which the
Kookaburra dived

April 3-5th A weekend at Airey's Inlet

[1948] Taking Michael with us, Joan and I spent the

(53) weekend at Airey's Inlet with Mr and Mrs Alan Noble. It was over cast and showery on the Saturday afternoon on which we went down, but the next day was fine, with small white clouds blown swiftly across a blue sky from the south-west. It was a very happy weekend, most successful also from the birds seen.

On the trip down we saw the birds of the plains as far as Moriac – RAVENS MAGPIES and MAGPIE-LARKS. GANG-GANGS were in a plantation near Winchelsea. Turning right into the dry Mess-mate bush from the Prince's Highway through Anglesea to Airey's Inlet we came upon CRIMSON ROSELLAS and NATIVE THRUSHES. On a post overlooking a small pool in the bush was a LITTLE PIED CORMORANT.

The Noble's house Anganook [guess] is situated beside the river surrounded by river flat with sand-dunes on the south (the leeward) side. Pines surround the house which has a garden and fruit-trees including a fig-tree on which the SILVER-EYES were gorging themselves. On one side of the house is the "lagoon" – a reedy swamp.

[April 3-5th]
[1948]

Around the house were seen YELLOW-TAILED, THORNBILLS YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATERS, EASTERN SPINEBILL GREY FANTAIL BLACKBIRD, STARLING, INDIAN TURTLE-DOVE, WILLIE-WAGTAIL and SPARROWS. On the swamp were MOORHEN, COOT incl [guess] BLACK-DUCK – wild, which did not associate with the sixty or so tame interbred duck there – and KOOKABURRA. At dusk I counted 97 SWALLOWS on the telephone wires which crossed the swamp.

On Sunday morning I went for a walk along the river, into the sand-dunes and back along the beach. I saw PIPITS, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, SWANS, HERONS, WHITE-FRONTED CHATS in the mesembrianthemum STRIATED FIELD-WRENS and BLUE WRENS in the tussocks. In the sand dunes were many GREENFINCHES. On the beach was only one SILVER GULL but I was very pleased to see a pair of HOODED DOTTEREL on the rocks just above the tide.

In the afternoon we went into the bush by a reedy creek. The bush was dry, the eucalypts being mainly messmate and iron-bark so typical of that stretch of coast. The birds were there in hundreds, the WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN and the YELLOW-ROBIN being so tame they hopped around our feet

[April 3-5th] after food. As I was walking down the creek a
[1948] large brown bird was flushed out of the reeds
and perched on a log spanning the river. It
was obviously an immature Nankeen Night-heron
or a BITTERN, and because of the habitat and
the bill colouring (upper mandible blue, lower green) I
identified it as the latter. The accompanying
[photo] photo was taken looking
across the creek. The over
grown nature of the banks
with dense reeds can be
seen. On the log in the
centre can just be seen
the Bittern itself.
In the mess-mate
bush itself the following
birds were seen in
addition to some already
mentioned –

WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER	WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER
RESTLESS FLYCATCHER	DIAMOND SPARROW
DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW	RED WATTLE-BIRD
BROWN THORNBILL	WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER
YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER	ROSE ROBIN
EASTERN SHRIKE TIT	OLIVE WHISTLER

[April 3-5th] [1948] Walking down the river further I left the bush and got into more open forest with bracken-covered hill-sides. There saw I saw GOLDFINCHES, RED BROWED FINCHES, GOSHAWK and a NOISY MINER. Altogether on that afternoon's outing I saw 27 species. We had our camp with a Mr Ritchie who spends most of his time camped there. In his younger days he used to get out camping with Charles Belcher and he now knows so little about birds that he hesitated in giving the Yellow Robin its name!

We left at the crack of dawn next morning and as were leaving we saw a pair of LITTLE GREBES on the Aireys R. and going through Lorne a SCARLET ROBIN.

6,7th April 1948 (40) I did the first inspection and test of 40 children at Warncoort, Irrewarra, Dreeite, Wool Wool and Nalangil. It is all plain country, the latter half being the bare Stony Rises, the lava outflows from the Warrion group. The following is a list of birds seen on that route –

MAGPIE	HERON	MOUNTAIN DUCK	WREN
RAVEN	PIPIT	WILLIE WAGTAIL	WHISTLING EAGLE
MAGPIE-LARK	SPARROW	KESTREL	GOLDFINCH
THORNBILL	SWALLOW	BROWN HAWK	YELLOW-TAILED
STARLINGS	SWAN	NOISEY MINER	SPUR-WINGED PLOVER

[6,7th April 1948] RED-WATTLE-BIRD STRIATED FIELD-WREN SCARLET ROBIN
SKYLARK SILVER GULLSTINT (? L. Corangamite)

On the 6th Ball's Dam was visited before we began and in addition I saw EASTERN SWAMPHEN; BLACK DUCK and LITTLE GREBES.

The first day after we had finished I went on down through Tomahawk Creek along a wood-cutters track. The land is high and the country fairly dry with light undergrowth. The birds seen, in addition to a few of the above were –

KOOKBURRA NATIVE THRUSH GREY FANTAIL BROWN THORNBILL
WHITE-EARED HON. CRIMSON ROSELLA DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW
PIED CURRAWONG
YELLOW ROBIN YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH.

The last mentioned bird was, as far as I am concerned, a new one to the district. At Irrewillipe East a GREY BUTCHER-BIRD was seen.

8, 9th April 1948 The following two days were
(45) spent testing and immunising Elliminyt East, Yeodene,
(45) Gerangamete, Barangarook, Irrewillipe East, Irrewillipe
(54) and Larpent. Ball's Dam was therefore visited each day and the following birds were seen

EASTERN SWAMP HEN DUSKY MOORHEN SWALLOW. HERON.
SWAN MOUNTAIN DUCK STARLING RAVEN
WILLIE-WAGTAIL LITTLE PIED-CORMORANT LITTLE GREBE
BLACK DUCK SPUR-WINGED PLOVER MAGPIE-LARK

[8, 9th April 1948] Other birds seen on this route were MAGPIES
SPARROWS PIPIT GANG-GANG
KOOKABURRA SPINE-TAILED SWIFT YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL
NOISY MINER CRIMSON ROSELLA EASTERN ROSELLA
GREY BUTCHER-BIRD STRIATED THORNBILL BLUE WREN
RED-BROWED FINCH YELLOW ROBIN GREY FANTAIL
JACKY WINTER NATIVE THRUSH RED WATTLE-BIRD
WHITE-EARED HONEYATER SCARLET ROBIN YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO
BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE YELLOW-WINGED HON. ~~HONEYEATER~~
GOLDEN WHISTLER DUSKY WOODSWALLOW KESTREL
WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN.

After I had finished, the first day I came back via the west coast of the Lake and saw, in addition to some that had been on Balls Dam
BROWN HAWK GOLD FINCH SILVER GULLS MUSK DUCK
I had lunch on the second day in the bush at the end of one of the access roads in Irrewillipe East. There were CRESCENT HONEYEATERS
RUFOUS BRISTLE-BD OLIVE WHISTLER and BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER. After the days work I attempted to get through to the Carlisle from Irrewillipe East. The beginning of the track was severely eroded with washaways but needed only careful driving. Lower down I came to the Carlisle R heath land where the sand was deep and I stuck several times.

[8, 9th April 1948] Eventually I made it, the eight miles taking two hours and a lot of sweating. In fact I did not see many birds, but whether that was because there were only a few or whether I had all my attention on the track (sic). However two new birds were added to my local list – a flock of WHITE-WINGED CHOUGHS and a flock of LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE. Also seen were a SINGING HONEYEATER and a PIED CURRAWONG at Carlisle.

19th April 1948 (30) I did my second trip to Apollo Bay

It was a good day for birds. In the bush I saw the following list –

MAGPIE	MAGPIE-LARK	RAVEN	CRIMSON ROSELLA
NATIVE THRUSH	BLUE WREN	YELLOW ROBIN	RED-BROWED FINCH
AUSTR.GOSHAWK	STARLING	GOLDFINCH	FLAME ROBIN
SCARLET ROBIN	RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD	GREY FANTAIL	SILVEREYE
SWALLOW	KOOKABURRA	WHITE-EARED HON.	BLACKBIRD
PIED CURRAWONG	RED WATTLE-BIRD	NOISY MINER	SPARROW
WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN.			

At Apollo Bay a STRIATED FIELD-WREN flew up from some grass in an allotment in the middle of the town and SILVER GULLS + CRESTED TERNS were seen on the shore. A very dead FAIRY PENGUIN was picked up on the golf links, while BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSSES followed the fishing fleet in or sat in large numbers on the water further out.

20th April 1948 (31)

I did the second trip through Lavers Hill, Chapel Vale, and Glen Aire. It was a wet day to begin with but heavy rain was not met with until we were going from Lavers Hill to Lower Gellibrand (we had had to come back that way for the Lower Gellibrand Road was impassable). However from Lower Gellibrand through to Apollo Bay we only had light showers, the country being very beautiful. I had Joan and Michael and Fay Bibon [guess] with me. We had fish and chips at Apollo Bay and came home by the Skenes Crk Road in the dark. with fog and rain round Mt Sabine.

Counting the Lake-bank, where we picked up Fay the birds seen on the day were

PELICAN	RAVEN	SILVEREYE	MAGPIE
SILVER GULLS		CRIMSON ROSELLA	RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD
BLACK DUCK		RED-BROWED FINCH	WHITE EARED HONEYEATER
LITTLE GREBE		GREY BUTCHER-BIRD	GOLDFINCH
MUSK DUCK		SWALLOW	CRESTED TERN
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER		NATIVE THRUSH	MAGPIE LARK
SWAN		YELLOW ROBIN	RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL
BLUE WREN		SCARLET ROBIN	SWAMP-HARRIER
BLACKBIRD		HERON	FLAME ROBIN
KOOKABURRA		STARLINGS	EASTERN SWAMPHEN

25 April Joan and I with Michael, took Nel Maloney
1948 out into the bush at Yeodene, just past [?] for tea.
(29) It was a lovely afternoon and I had time to
stand and observe – which lead to a most
humiliating identification. Birds seen on the way and
in the bush

MAGPIE	STARLING	MAGPIE-LARK
SWALLOW	WILLIE-WAGTAIL	PIPIT
SCARLET ROBIN	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL	EASTERN SWAMPHEN
SWAN	SPUR-WINGED PLOVER	YELLOW-FACED HEN
WHITE-EARED HON.	BLUE WRENS	NOISY MINER
NATIVE THRUSH	EASTERN ROSELLA	YELLOW ROBIN
WHITE-THROATED TR-CR. HONEYEATER	CRIMSON ROSELLA	WHITE-NAPED
WHITE-BR. SCRUB-WREN	GREY FANTAIL	SPOTTED PARDALOTE.

And the Thornbills. Having seen many
"Striated Thornbills" I saw a bird in a Banksia
which <u>was</u> a STRIATED THORNBILL which led me
back to the other and more numerous bird, in fact
a bird which is one of the commonest in the
district. It was reidentified as the BROWN
THORNBILL. Ever since I was a boy when the
Thornbill with the striated chest was called the
Striated Thornbill I have uncritically accepted it
as such despite the fact that my room in
England there for the past eight years has been

[25 April 1948] being with Gould's Plate of Acanthisa striata! I have vowed to go carefully through the whole of the local list carefully for similar misidentifications. However since the 22nd April last, when Joan presented me with North's Nest and Eggs, is the first time I have had an adequate account of each Australian bird.

28th April 1948 (30) I immunised on the Swan Marsh to Ondit "circuit". It was a dull day except for tea which I had at Meredith Park where I counted 119 Musk Duck and heard their thin whistling across the still water. It is remarkable however that I saw more birds on this day than on the previous Sunday afternoon in the bush. It is an indication of the wealth of water-birds which I separate in the following list.

SPARROW	MAGPIE	SWALLOW
RAVEN	RED WATTLE-BIRD	MAGPIE-LARKS
WILLIE-WAGTAIL	STARLING	GOLDFINCH
BROWN HAWK	KESTREL	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL
SCARLET ROBIN	PIPIT	SKYLARK
KOOKABURRA		

[line separating table]

HERON	COOT	BLACK DUCK
SWAN	LITTLE RED CORMORANT	RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL
MOUNTAIN DUCK	LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT	EASTERN SWAMP HEN
MUSK DUCK	SILVER GULL	HOARY-HEADED GREBE
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER	PELICAN	

11th May 1945 (44)

Today I did the second round from Warncoort to Nalangil via Dreeite. It started off with drizzly rain but became clearer the further out in the plains we were. I had lunch on the shore of Lake Corangamite at the end of Coate's Lane. It was calm and grey, and felt a long way away from anywhere. The son of the schoolmaster at Dreeite North showed me a Native Cat he had trapped the day before. About the size of a domestic cat with small almost hand-like paws and a large bushy tail it had ~~[?]~~ a very pointed snout. It was almost black with white spots the size of a shilling – a very handsome animal.

After we had finished I went down to Tomahawk Crk but it was raining in the hills and the road was to *[too] greasy to go to where I had seen the Spotted Quail Thrush. So I had tea at Barangarook West and watched Grey Currawongs feed on the side of the tree-trunks like cockatoos. The interesting find of the day was an Eastern Whiteface feeding with Yellow-tailed Thornbills on the ground at Dreeite. The complete list (a good one) of the day follows –

[11.5.48]	MAGPIE	RAVEN	MAGPIE-LARK
	STARLING	SPARROW	GOLD FINCH
	SCARLET ROBIN	SWALLOW	SWAN
	SPUR-WINGED PLOVER	EASTERN SWAMPHEN	DUSKY MOORHEN
	HOARY-HEADED GREBE	MOUNTAIN DUCK	SKYLARK
	PIPIT	WHISTLING EAGLE	GOSHAWK
	KESTREL	KOOKABURRA	WILLIE-WAGTAIL
	YELLOW ROBIN	WHITE-FACED HERON	WHITE IBIS
	STRAW-NECKED IBIS	BLUE WREN	STRIATED FIELDWREN
	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL	SILVEREYE	EASTERN WHITE-FACE
	WHITE-FRONTED CHAT.	RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL	MUSK DUCK
	BLACK DUCK	BANDED PLOVER	SILVER GULL
	BROWN THORNBILL	GREY CURRAWONG	WHITE-BROWED SCR-WREN
	YELLOW-WINGED HON.	EASTERN ROSELLA	

12 ~~April~~ May 1948 (43) – Today the round of immunization from Gerangamete to Irrewillipe. Low clouds in the morning which disappeared later to give a gloriously blue sky with cool westerly breeze. I had lunch at the end of the access road with branches off the Carlisle Rd. Walking there in health country which had sprung up after considerable timber cutting a kangaroo lolloped off and I could hear the thumping for quite a time after he had disappeared. The health was well out.

[12 May 1948] After we had finished I circled Lake Corangamite through Pomborneit North up the west side of the Lake through very rich country to Foxhow, Cressy and home. The Scarlet and Flame Robins were seen throughout from the edge of the bush as far north as Foxhow in great numbers. At Larpent I saw distinctly an ~~Black-capped~~ Orange-winged Sittella which I first took to be a Black-capped Sitella* [Sittella]. As the cap in the former male is "brown, almost black" I cannot but accept it as such and ~~not~~ record the other so far from its range. At Foxhow I counted eleven Whistling Eagles on the shore looking very much like vultures.

GREY CURRAWONG		
SCARLET ROBIN	WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER	WHITE-FRONTED CHAT
WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE	ORANGE-WINGED SITELLA	HOARY-HEADED GREBE
SWALLOW	GOLDFINCH	WHISTLING EAGLE
FLAME ROBIN	WILLIE-WAGTAIL	BLACK DUCK
NATIVE THRUSH	SWAN	SILVER GULLS
GREY FANTAIL	EASTERN SWAMPHEN	DOTTRELL *[DOTTEREL]
MAGPIE	MOUNTAIN DUCK	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL
YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER	YELLOW ROBIN	BROWN THORNBILL
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER	BROWN HAWK	CRIMSON ROSELLA
RAVEN	BLACKBIRD	RED WATTLE-BIRD
MAGPIE-LARK	NOISY MINER	SPUR-WINGED PLOVER
PIPIT	WHITE-FACED HERON	KOOKABURRA
SKYLARK	EASTERN ROSELLA	WREN
YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER	CRESCENT HONEYEATER	RED-BROWED FINCH

1.6.48 Today I did the third and last immunizing
(32) trip to the Apollo Bay half of the Otway Shire, taking
with me Bill Walls, the Town Clerk. It was a
filthy wet day, except at Apollo Bay where we
had some blue sky and tea for our lunch
interval. In the evening the wet hills
showed a beautiful deep blue with wisps of
cloud against them.

By Yeodene in the morning we saw a
large kangaroo. At Apollo Bay we saw, far
out to the sea, albatrosses round the fishing boats.
At the mouth of the Wild Dog Creek we had a
superb close view of a Plumed Egret of which
every feather could be seen in the glasses. Owing [guess] to
the season of course it had no plumes. Except
for a huge flock of Crimson Rosellas at Olangolah
it was a poor day for birds.

SWALLOW	EASTERN ROSELLA	NOISY MINER		NATIVE THRUSH
BROWN HAWK	MAGPIE	YELLOW ROBIN	WHITE-BROWED ALBATROSS	
BLUE WREN	MAGPIE-LARK	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL		LITTLE PIED CORMORANT
STRIATED FIELD WREN	SWAN	BLACKBIRD		PLUMED EGRET
BROWN THORNBILL	DUSKY MOORHEN	STARLING		GOLDFINCH
GANG-GANG	EASTERN SWAMPHEN	FLAME ROBIN		RAVEN
PIPIT	CRIMSON ROSELLA	RED-BROWED FINCH		KOOKABURRA
SCARLET ROBIN	GREY CURRAWONG	SILVER GULL		AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK

2.6.48 A really beautiful day wound up the immunisation
(29) in the Otways via Lavers Hill, Devondale and Kennedy's Creek. We came home (I had Nell Maloney with me) from Glen Aire to Apollo Bay which we reached just as darkness was falling. Mr. Longhorn was not too well after being pushed into a ditch on the Charley's Creek Road and at lunch-time Mr Strahle [guess] sprained his ankle. So Nell and I did Glen Aire by ourselves.

Another (or perhaps the same bird) Plumed Egret was seen at Glen Aire together with many waterfowl on the flooded river flats. A bird which I had seen occasionally and could not place turned out to be the Ground-Thrush – the existence of which I had forgotten since my return On the whole it was a poor day for the birds surprisingly enough on such a lovely day.

MAGPIE	MAGPIE –LARK	GREY THRUSH	BLUE WREN
YELLOW ROBIN	GOLDFINCH	SWALLOW	KOOKABURRA
RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD	CRIMSON ROSELLA	BLACKBIRD	GREY CURRAWONG
BROWN THORNBILL	STARLING	SPARROW	HERON
SCARLET ROBIN	GREY FANTAIL	RED-BROWED FINCH	SWAN
BLACK DUCK	EASTERN SWAMP HEN	PLUMED EGRET	STRIATED FIELD WREN
SILVER GULLS	GROUND-THRUSH	WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN	
YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO		WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER	

3.6.48 This morning was a very heavy frost and the
(11) day began with bright cold sunshine. I went
past the lake-bank in the morning which was
beautiful – the mist blocking the further shore
and the lake a pure calm silver broken only
where scattered flocks of GULLS, BLACK DUCK and
MUSK DUCK ruffled the surface. Near inshore [guess]
a loose flock of HOARY-HEADED GREBES kept
bobbing up, the numbers always changing. By
the reeds SWANS were feeding while further off
towards the Point a single PELICAN and ~~LITTLE~~ WHITE
EGRET were inspecting the water, each in its
peculiar way. In the reeds HERONS and
SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS tilled at the wet ground.
Up on the bank a solitary SWALLOW and
KOOKABURRA flew about their business.

8.6.48 Brisbane + Rockhampton. I was at lunch on the
(5) lookout for birds during the 24 hours in Brisbane. I
T.5 had a very nice chat with Barker, Queensland sec.
of the RAOU who advised us to go down to
Sandgate to see the Lotus-Bird but we didn't
have the opportunity. MAGPIE-LARKS and the JAVA
DOVE were very common about the city – the
former I have found to be very much more
common throughout the state than it is in Victoria.

[8.6.48] Flying round the bridge over the Brisbane River was a flock of FAIRY MARTINS while flying up stream was a solitary Crested Tern.

As our plane made an approach for landing at Rockhampton I saw a WHISTLING EAGLE flying low over the scrub which consisted of well spread out stunted gums and grass.

9.6.48 We had arrived the previous night at
(31) Mackay in darkness so that our first touch with the local birds was when, with morning
32 tea in our rooms, we read in the local (and very good) paper that large numbers of Ibis were frequenting the town streets. Which sounded good.

After we had dealt with what small business we had, we hired bikes to explore the town. We went first to Queen's Park where there were both Straw-necked and White Ibis and Spurwinged Plover walking in the grounds. Then we road *[rode] on a path leading east toward the beach through a mangrove swamp in which there were numerous Honeyeaters which I think were Purple-gaped but of whose identity I am still not quite sure. Sacred Kingfishers were also there as well as four Curlews.

[9.6.48] After we had circled back into the town and had a milk-shake we set out for the Outer Harbour, three miles [guess] off. The road led us through mangrove, scrub and a few sugar plantations to the sea. I was struck with the number of Black-faced and Little Cuckoo-Shrikes, particularly round the cane. There were many Kestrels a few Whistling Eagles and two Rainbow Birds. A flock of Pipits flew from the beginning of the breakwater while Crested Terns rested on the leeward rocks of it. On the way-back we saw a Red Butcher-bird, a Black-backed Magpie and a Pied Goose in a swamp.

It rained most of the afternoon which finished our bird-watching, though we strolled round the local areas, admiring the elephant with the two young and a young Emu.

MAGPIE-LARK	LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE
JAVA DOVE	BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER	WILLIE-WAGTAIL
LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT	CURLEW
PIED OYSTERCATCHER	PLUMED EGRET
PEACEFUL DOVE	WHITE EGRET

[29.6.48]	MANGROVE HERON	SACRED KINGFISHER	LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD
	HELMETED FRIAR-BIRD	PLUM-HEADED FINCH	PURPLE-GAPED HONEYEATER
	CROW	WHITE IBIS	SILVER GULL
	KESTREL	STRAW-WRECKED IBIS	RAINBOW-BIRD
	CRESTED TERN	PIPIT	WHISTLING EAGLE
	AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK	BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE	PIED BUTCHER-BIRD
	PIED GOOSE		

10.6.48
212
T49
(+6)

At 9.0 we were off north in a very peculiar motor train to ~~Mackay~~ Proserpine, 90 odd miles north, stopping at Kohjo and Bloomsbury for refreshments. The first half of the journey was through sugar-cane and then bush which at this point is almost what I would call open forest – small gums (many in flower) with grass beneath. A very pleasant looking country which made me itch to explore it (as I am sure the grass-seed would if I had done so).

The train (sic) was completely open so that we were very pleased it was a good day. A lot of birds were seen the most interesting being a beautiful blue Forest Kingfisher and a Blue-winged Kookaburra (besides the common species. Pardalotes. Parrots and a wren were seen but all were unidentifiable.

[10.6.48] At Proserpine we detrained and inbused for Cannondale 14 miles of on the sea [guess]. I saw a mixed flock of finches – some of which were Gouldian in the town before setting off. On the trip Joan saw what was evidently a Cockatiel but I missed it.

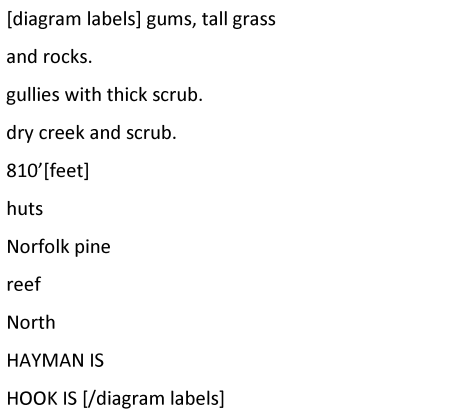
We had a long wait for lunch at Cannondale so I went off. A pair of Mangrove Herons were diving from the palings of the swimming pool and allowed a good approach. In the bush was a PALE SILVEREYE, a LEADEN FLYCATCHER and a MISTLE-TOE BIRD as well as two Honeyeaters one of which I think was a MANGROVE HONEYEATER.

We were slow embarking and on the trip out I saw a Pied Cormorant, and Osprey At Daydream Island where we landed Passengers was a beautiful sea-eagle and in the Norfolk Pines was a flock of Masked Wood-swallows. It then got dark so that we arrived at Hayman Island in the pouring rain, disembarked into a flat-bottomed boat and made the final two hundred yards wading over coral and sand.

[11.6.48]	MAGPIE-LARK	SACRED KINGFISHER	KOOKABURRA
	CROW	BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE	PLUM-HEADED FINCH
	WILLIE-WAGTAIL	STRAW-NECKED IBIS	KESTREL
	CRESTED TERN	BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE	FAIRY MARTIN
	LITTLE WATTLE BIRD	WHITE-FACED HERON	PIED BUTCHER-BIRD
	WHISTLING EAGLE	RAINBOW BIRD	FOREST KINGFISHER
	WHITE EGRET	PEACEFUL DOVE	PARDALOTE sp?
	PARROT sp?	SWALLOW	BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA
	GRAY BUTCHER-BIRD	WREN sp?	LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT
	GOULDIAN FINCH	HERON sp?	COCKATIEL ?
	SILVER GULL	MANGROVE-HERON	GREY FANTAIL
	PALE SILVEREYE	MANGROVE HONEYEATER	LEADEN FLYCATCHER
	HONEYEATER sp?	SEA-EAGLE	MISTLETOE BIRD
	PIED CORMORANT	OSPREY	MASKED WOOD-SWALLOW

11.6.48 (21) T54 (46) We awoke with interest next morning to see what our islands looked like. Much higher than I expected, it was also, to my delight much more heavily timbered which meant, I hoped, birds. The huts and hall are strung out along a beach facing south protected by a long southward arm to the east. Behind the huts is a flat area along which runs a dry creek, at the moment consisting of wet mud and yabbie holes and a semi-mangrove scrub. The huts themselves are

[11.6.48] [diagram]



built beneath a grove lining the shore of Whitsunday Island Magnolias. Behind the huts the island rises with two gullies separating the east and west areas from a centre shoulder which rises to the islands peak. The gullies are thick and matte with vines but curiously dry after the Otway gullies. On either side of the gullies is rank grass growing amongst loose rocks which with small gums covers most of the southern aspect of the island. In the gullies are a few large Norfolk Pines but it is

[11.6.48] the east side of the island which is covered with this pine and a very fine sight it makes.

On this morning (Friday) Joan and I climbed from the western arm up the ridge, it was very hard going, the loose stones twisting the ankles and the grass covering us with seeds and burrs. A SEA-EAGLE flew over the headland hardly moving its huge wide wings and several OSPREYS also circled over the shore. An AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK flew swiftly down the hillside while a little further a KESTREL hovered. Several SWALLOWS darted in amongst the trees. We did not go far up the ridge because we were easily tired and on the way down to the western gully we saw a flock of Black-faced CUCKOO-SHRIKES. That was all there was on the hillside – no small birds. At the gully bottom was a female LEADEN FLYCATCHER.

About "the camp" are many MAGPIE-LARKS, WILLIE-WAGTAILS, KOOKABURRAS (which woke us with their dawn chorus at 6:15 am) and CROWS which also feed out on the tidal flats. All day long we hear the screeching of a large flock of WHITE COCKATOOS which frequent the southern aspect of the island well up the hillsides. In

[11.6.48] the Magnolias are a pair of SACRED KINGFISHERS which
fly down onto the sand at low tide. There on
the sand are also SILVER GULLS, PIED OYSTERCATCHERS
and what I feel sure are a pair of MANGROVE
HERONS. In the evening I went for a walk
(we had slept throughout the afternoon) to the eastern
arm and saw 20 WHIMBREL on the sand
just above high water. Many WHITE-FRONTED
HERONS were on the reef though many I
counted then were probably dark forms of
the REEF HERRON – many white birds being present
then. Out beyond the reef was a
solitary BROWN GANNET.
One bird I have forgotten to mention
around the camp is a flock of PIED
CURRAWONGS which feed behind the kitchen.
Two of them trapped themselves in a chicken
run and flapped noisily about. It was
a good day and held fair promise of birds
12.6.48 I was up at 6.15 to see what I could see and
Is. 34 came almost immediately on a small bird with
T 63 well curved bill but the light was so poor that I
(46) could see no colours. Provisionally it went down
as a SUNBIRD. Then I met a MISTLETOE-BIRD
in the dry creek being able as the light became

[12.6.48] better to see the red under the throat and tail. I then flushed a pair of pigeons which at first I thought were parrots so brightly coloured were they. They had a bright yellow eyebrow but in other respects they could be identified as RED-CROWNED PIGEONS. As these displace the Rose-crowned Pigeon geographically (the later having the yellow eyebrow). I think I will find when I get a better description of the former they will have the yellow eye-brow.

After breakfast Joan and I set out for the western gully and could not see or hear a thing. We were caught in heavy rain storm and were feeling a bit damped. When however the storm cleaned the bush burst into song and I was kept busy. A GREY FANTAIL was singing and besides a Leaden Flycatcher was a SPECTACLED FLYCATCHER, a beautiful bird, a WHITE-EARED FLYCATCHER looking rather like a Mudlark in miniature, a female RUFOUS WHISTLER and a VARIED TRILLER, another beautiful bird with the same colour scheme as the two black + rufous flycatchers.

When I returned, very wet, Joan who had gone on home earlier told me that

[12.6.48] PEACEFUL DOVES were caught in the chicken run and also that she had seen another species. The latter I found and confirmed to be three BAR-SHOULDERED DOVES which kept close to the kitchen feeding on the ground from scraps. In the early afternoon I wandered in the magnolias and saw in their branches a WHITE-HEADED PIGEON. It certainly reminded me that Queensland is the place for pigeons.

We went for an afternoon cruise to Hook Is (Butterfly Bay) on which at the beach, were piles of empty oyster shells left, I am told by aborigines + Japanese pearlers. We had a long look at the coral – a fantastic world. The only interest in birds was the sight of a CRESTED TERN and chasing a Black-faced CUCKOO-SHRIKE out from the foliage – a SPANGLED DRONGO – the bird with the Lewis Carol name. We got back after dark when the wind had risen, too many of us were transferred to an almost water-logged flat-boat which the motor-boat could not pull even before it broke down. Fortunately our shouts were heard and eventually I used the oars in ferrying three loads, eventually wading ashore.

13.6.48. After breakfast Joan and I set off
Is 36 around the east point going slowly looking
T. 64 at the shells and animals in the reef, including
(46) the monstrous black sea urchins. I saw an
OSPREY perched on the very top of a
Norfolk Pine and when it flew off saw
that there was a nest there. Later the
bird came back with a stick in its talons
which it added to the nest. A little further
out I watched it fishing, diving obliquely into
the water to arise shaking the water from
itself. A little later we saw the most
gorgeous pair of Sun-birds playing in a
Norfolk Pine. At the end of our walk on the
easternmost part of the Island were three
LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKES in the pines. It was there too
that we disturbed a pair of SOOTY OYSTER CATCHERS
which fled nearby on the rocks. When we
reached home at the same time as a storm
a male Sunbird was singing its canary-like
song by the door of our hut.
After lunch it was wet and I began
these notes and apart from a visit to the
Whimbrels on the sound-bank the day's birds were
over.

14-6-48 Sunday showed the first real promise of fine
Is 38 weather since our arrival. Until 11:00 a.m Joan + I
T66 sat on the sand and let the sun warm us. Then
(6) I went up to the east gully bare to the waist.
perspiring pleasurably. On my way across the grass
flats behind the huts I was surprised to disturb a
STONE-CURLEW – a much bigger bird than I had
thought it would be. Its uneven flight and
comical tail waggle when it stopped between runs
were noticeable. Also as I crossed the flat a
PEREGRINE came down from the heights like a bullet
its shoulders hunched, black cheeks, whistling low over
me. In the gully were the White-eared Fly catcher,
the Varied Triller, Rufous Whistler, and a family of
quarrelsome Grey Fantails.

After lunch we went out in a launch to
a bay on the west side of the island where there
was a Sea-eagle, magnificently imposing on the
bare bough of a latt [guess] dead tree. On the way
back we saw two huge turtles basking on the
surface, raising their heads skywards. We also
saw a few porpoises. The island just to the west
of Hayman is a spot to which all the Reef-Herons
go at high tide and the rocks were covered with
them including 18 Whitefaced Herons (?).

15.6.48 Has just ended a perfect day. This morning I
Is 40 went off round the east point to do some photography
T. 68. The Ospreys were at the nest when I arrived and
(T6) just as I set up they left. I gave them till 11:0 am
(25 mins) to return. One returned at 11:05! I
took it on the nest, the white breast gleaming
against the sky but failed to get a bird
approaching.

After lunch I set off toward the east gully
photographing the habitats. Many Spangled Drongos
were caterwauling (I had seen the first on
Hayman the previous day). Then I had a
beautiful view of a honeyeater – just brown,
aptly named the Dusky Honeyeater. It must
be the most sobre of all its family. Across the
shoulder of land to the west gully, taking photos
of the islands out to sea, I met, when I arrived
a PHEASANT-COUCAL which reminded me
immediately of the English Pheasant, hopping
clumsily in the foliage.

After tea a swim and we have
just watched one of the most beautiful sunsets
across still blue water to our feet. The mainland
mountains purple to deep blue and the islands
a wonderful red.

16 June 1948
IS ~~39~~ 41
T 68
(6)

A beautiful day was set apart for an all day excursion in the cruising boats 'Marlin' and 'KingFish'. We were all loaded aboard from a flat bottomed boat in the lagoon and when the boats started they found themselves both aground. So back we came to the shore and that was that day's cruise! The whole party was to have a picnic on the flats behind the huts but we decided to have a walk round the island.

We started off at 10.10 with Mr + Mrs Calman – Heather + Irwin, – a most delightful couple on their honeymoon. For the first part we took a path leading north from the western arm of the bay. It did not take us far before impossible rocks forced us upward. It was there that I saw a Heron which seemed larger than the Reef Heron with lanceolated feathers down the nape and back. I have so far not been able to identify it.

As we climbed we came upon a goat with two kids a few days old. We had quite away to go before we dropped down into a beach where there were a Bar-shouldered Dove, a Mangrove Heron and a pair of Stone-curlews. From that beach to the next we had a very fine

[16 June 1948] piece of rock-climbing, which took us to where we bathed from the launch on the 14th. Another piece of rock-climbing took us to the point which was not negotiable without going up so we had lunch high up on a large flat rock.

Climbing after lunch we came upon a pair of Stone-curlews on the ridge. Then a brute of a climb down to a beach through steep thick scrub. It was a small coral beach with cliff at the farther end. On a projection of this cliff was an Osprey's nest which when I climbed to it found it to contain 3 eggs. The birds were pinking anxiously about. I took a photo and left it. We climbed on till we found that we had to traverse another wide thick gully to the next headland.

So we went on up the ridge to arrive on the peak at 5.0 pm. On the way up a small party of Rainbow-birds flew over towards the west. The view from the top was magnificent, the islands laid out at our feet in deep blue water with the sky approaching sunset.

We scrambled down over rocks + thick tall grass, falling almost every step, to stumble home at 6.0 pm.

17th June We did this day actually go for a
Is 42 cruise all day in the Marlin. We went south
T 70 down the west coast of Hook Is turning round its
(6) tip at the south into Narra Inlet. There we
dropped two fishermen in the dingy and
aquaplaned up + down the inlet. It was
easier than I thought though on each
occasion I tried to pull the nose of the board
up too far – the first time [guess] tiring my wrists
unneccesarally *[unnecessarily], the second putting my weight
too far back on the board making it too unstable
and coming off when I was going into the
waves. Of the five of us who tried, I was
the only one to come off. Joan was very
good.

We had lunch at the mouth of a creek
at the bottom of the inlet, where there was some
fresh water. Afterwards we went up the creek
a way and I saw Leaden Flycatchers, Dusky
Honeyeaters and White-eared Flycatchers and
heard a Rufous Whistler and the screeching of
Lorikeets. The latter I could not see but just
before we were leaving several flew high over the
inlet to the east, screeching and I could make
out the green, with red bellies and blue wings

[17th June] the Rainbow-Lorikeet which is evidently the common
member of the parrot family in these parts. At
the mouth of the creek in the mangroves was a
Mangrove Kingfisher.

18th June We rested. In the morning I sat on the
Is 43 beach and while Joan read and knitted I
T ~~9~~ 70 counted the herons that passed eastwards across
(6) the mouth of the bay from Ackhurst Is to the
reef which was rapidly being exposed by the
falling tide. I found that there were
two main waves at a half-hour interval, and
that the white-fronted Herons landed to be taken
on to the reef. After lunch I went to look
for the Red-crowned Pigeons which I could
hear almost every day and succeeded in getting
a very good view of them. But it was
a very quiet day and for the first time no
new birds were added to the list.

19th June was another very quiet day. In the
Is44 [guess] morning I again counted the herons, confirming
T ~~69~~ 70 the previous day but not to quite such an
(6) extent as then. In the evening we walked
out on the reef and were fascinated by the
multitude of forms of life there – another
very lazy day.

20th June was Sunday and we went on a
I48 (1) whole day cruise to Daydream and South
T73 Molle Islands. On the way a Petrel
(7) crossed the course of the boat – dark above
with black primaries, dark throat and white
abdomen – I fear I cannot yet place it.
At Daydream Is we saw the Catalina land
and take off with passengers and did some
aquaplaning on a lighter and much more
efficient board on which one could sweep
backwards and forwards across the wake.
This time I did not come off.
On the island was a single Masked
Wood-swallow, a pair of Mangrove Honey-eaters,
a GREY-BREASTED SILVEREYE, and a male
GOLDEN WHISTLER, accompanied by a bird which
should have been the female except that it
had bright yellow under-tail coverts. We had
lunch at Daydream and then were
dropped at South Molle Island to wander
before being picked up in two hours time.
We heard what sounded very like the
cry of a Koala which we hear are
found on these islands. A sun-bird
was singing by the guest house, a pair

[20th June] of Dusky Honeyeaters were in company with
a noisy flock of Mangrove Honeyeaters and as
we were leaving a pair of Rainbow Lorikeets
flew high overhead screeching.
I have since realised that we have
another sea eagle with us – the RED-BACKED
SEA-EAGLE which is, incidentally, the first I saw
at Cannondale.

21st June – at the moment of writing I am on the
I49 (1) Nami [guess], en route to the Outer Reef. So far only
T94 a Crested Tern following the boat but it
(9) explains, with the swell why my handwriting
has got so bad! Later we came upon more Terns
and several Brown Boobies off the Outer Reef. We "landed"
at 2.30 and wandered over it fascinated till 4.30. We
saw a sea-snake, a Carpet Shark and myriads of
forms of life of every conceivable size, shape and colour.
It was a fantastic experience. A Greater Frigate-bird
flew over the Reef chasing a Tern – a beautiful
stream-lined creature. It was a long trek back
– 30 miles and not a fruitful bird day – but not
an experience to miss.

22nd June Nothing to report – swimming + reading in the sun.

23rd June Except for a walk on the rocks in Ackhurst direction
I49 (1) our last day was spent getting our things together
T94 [guess]

24.6.48 On Thursday we made an early start
I 49 (1) in the Marlin for Bowen. It was quite
T 74 rough and the boat tossed about a lot. There
(7) was only one mal-de-mer aboard out of
seven which wasn't bad! A school of
porpoises played round our boat and
the only birds on the trip in to the
mainland were Brown Gannets and
Crested Terns. A flock of Pied Cormorants
was nesting on some rocks off a small
island inside Gloucester Passage. So ended
the birds of the islands and seas round
them – fifty species with one unidentified.
At Bowen – a one horse town if
ever there was one! – there were no
further birds of interest that day which
we had not already seen at Mackay.
25.6.48 At the airfield next morning a
75 (7) flock of HORSE-FIELD BUSHLARKS* [Horsfield's bush lark] was seen –
remarkable by their almost finch-like
bill and curious hesitant flight. We
touched down at Mackay where I spent
an all too brief ten minutes with
Macdonald, regretting the Mornington SS
trip, hearing his news, trying to hear news

[25.6.48] of this birds and then tearing away to the plane – too laughable for words! Nothing of particular interest was seen at Rockhampton or Brisbane except a white Egret near the latter airfield.

26-27.6.48 Two days in Sydney – not bird

83 watching – but the suburban birds added

(8) several to the list – RED-WHISKERED BULBULS, INDIAN MINAH, STARLING, GOLDFINCH, YELLOW ROBIN, BLUE-WREN, NATIVE-THRUSH, RED-WATTLE-BIRD, and round a fishing boat well out to sea many ALBATROSSESS (sp?). And that brought up the holidays total. Very satisfactory on all counts even though it was the bird's off-season. Whether anything in it is worth recording I don't know. I am writing away to Barker in Brisbane to see if I have anything of importance which may be worth publishing but I doubt it. At any rate, to a Victorian it was a marvellous holiday, even apart from the birds. And I must say that it gave me an urge to find some way in which I could spend my whole time after them.

7th August 1948. (12) Our first trip out into out into the bush since our return was made with Fay Bilson to Wonga Wonga, a high spur overlooking the Gellibrand Valley. There is a Forests Commission lookout Tower on the top from which we could pick out the various valleys and roads leading from Gellibrand. Birds were very scarce oddly enough – CRESCENT HONEYEATERS in Banksia scrub and many GREY CURRAWONGS in the open paddocks on the ridge. Otherwise all that were there were

WRENS	BROWN THORNBILL	
CRIMSON ROSELLA	MAGPIE	RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD
KOOKABURRA	GREY THRUSH	WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER	SPARROW	STARLING

It was not till we had come to Kawarren on our return that we saw a YELLOW ROBIN

8 August [1948] (25) The next day we went out and spent a couple of hours at Yeo. On the way out on the plateau were RAVENS, MAGPIE-LARKS, with SKYLARKS and PIPITS, the former in flocks the latter in pairs. Ball's Dam had a very small collection – up to 50 SWANS (no nests seen) SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS (mainly on the paddocks round about), a few EASTERN SWAMPHENS SWALLOWS and a ~~wh~~ WHITE-FACED HERON. There was however

[8th August] one variety – a ROYAL SPOONBILL, whose black legs & bill stand out even in fairly poor light. In a small dam nearby was a single WHITE-NECKED HERON.

At Yeo we pulled the car off the road by the Cherry-tree which used to mark the entrance to the Hancock's property where we were last on 15th November 1947, when Michael was three weeks old. I wandered off down the track which led off into "young bush" which was left after the timber folk had left it. It makes a typical habitat and a very pleasant area of which the more prominent birds are YELLOW ROBINS, CRIMSON ROSELLAS, WRENS, STRIATED PARDALOTE, NATIVE THRUSH, WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER, BROWN THORNBILL and SCARLET ROBIN. The track crosses a swampy creek full of a course *[coarse] grass and reed with thick whip-stick tea-tree scrub in which were CRESCENT HONEYEATERS & YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATERS. On the fringe, on many stumps that dotted the paddock were KOOKABURRAS – and of course EASTERN ROSELLAS and NOISY MINERS in the ridge before Yeodene.

I walked back down this creek and had not gone far before a Black Wallaby

[8th August] jumped out of my way. A little further on a large kangaroo suddenly stood upright and stared, his alert ears well above the level of my head, before bounding off. As I went on four large kangaroos moved slowly through the scrub on my left, not hurrying though they saw me, but continued their leisurely feeding. I cut back to the Track by a kangaroo-path on which could be seen many of their marks with deep cut marks of their claws as they leapt.

We returned through Gerangamete and Barwon Downs, where there were EASTERN ROSELLAS, NOISY MINERS, MAGPIES, RAVENS and a large flock of WHITE COCKATOOS feeding in a young oats crop. At Warncoort a WHISTLING EAGLE was forced to the ground by a fiercely attacking MAGPIE.

10th August (12) Was a lovely cold clear day on which the lake from Queen's Avenue was looking its best – a hard silver with the ripple-marks of birds upon it. There were very many SILVER GULLS making a nuisance of themselves by harrying the feeding CRESTED GREBES. Many BLACK DUCK were scattered among the reed

[10th August 1948] at the water's edge, HOARY-HEADED GREBES and a few pairs of MOUNTAIN DUCK were a little further out, and a little beyond were large numbers of MUSK DUCK. LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS were sunning themselves on the jetty with the gulls. Walking through the reeds were WHITE-FACED HERONS, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER and the WHITE EGRET which has now been present for several months.

In the flowering gums on the Lake-bank were WATTLE-BIRDS, and a solitary KOOKABURRA flew in front of the car down the length of the Avenue.

28th August (20) We had Mr John Ponder up to stay with us and he fortunately brought with him fine weather after several foul weeks. In the afternoon we took him, as we do most visitors to Red Rock from where we showed him the countryside. Visibility was excellent and much water gleamed after the rains. On the lake to the east of Red Rock were huge numbers of HOARY-HEADED GREBES – about a 100 in all in flocks up to 40.

Lake Corangamite was very full as we passed it and MOUNTAIN DUCK were on the shore in pairs. We went through Pirron

[28th August] Yallock and turned off onto the Hawks Nest Road which is three-dimensional in its activity, and not much fun for passengers. WHITE FRONT and WHITE-NECKED HERONS were present as well as WHISTLING EAGLES and SWAMP HARRIERS. We stopped where I went one Sunday (28.12.47) and birds noted were

STRIATED FIELD WREN		
BLUE WREN	WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER	STRIATED PARDALOTE
FAN-TAILED CUCKOO	?BRONZE-CUCKOO	YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER
MAGPIE	MAGPIE-LARK	GREY BUTCHER-BIRD
NOISY MINER	CRIMSON ROSELLA	STARLING.

On our way back on one of the swamps in the Rises were SWANS and EASTERN SWAMPHENS.

29th August. (29) The following day we went off into the bush south through Barangarook, Kawarren, Gellibrand and Carlisle to a heathland where we paused. There were

NATIVE THRUSH	YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER	
CRESCENT-HONEYEATER	BLUE WREN	WHISTLING EAGLE
GANG-GANG	KOOKABURRA	WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN
MAGPIE	SWALLOW.	

We moved on through Devondale up to Laver's Hill and stopped just before the summit where the bush was extremely thick

[29th August] and quite impenetrable. Going through there
before I had wet my lips at what
must have dwelt in that lush green
tangle. But it was silent except for the song
of the RUFOUS FANTAIL, and so impractical
that we moved on and I felt not a little foolish.
We had lunch at Wyelangta and watched
a pair of WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES playing. Later
we stopped a little further on where before
(21.3.48) and seen many birds. But apart
from many BROWN THORNBILLS there was nothing.
By this time we had done a lot
of motoring for very little return in the way
of birds. So I hurriedly made for
the old saw-mill by Gellibrand which
I visited (7.12.47) before and there we had better
luck – YELLOW ROBIN GREY FANTAIL
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER CRIMSON ROSELLAS
RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD BROWN THORNBILL
WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER GOLDEN WHISTLER
WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER STRIATED THORNBILL
EASTERN SPINEBILL SCARLET ROBIN
Then in the evening we moved
off, but not before I had found the
remains of a Wrens nest which I has so

[29th August] unsuccessfully tried to photograph the previous year.

Other birds seen during the day were

EASTERN ROSELLA NOISY MINER RAVEN

MAGPIE-LARK RED-BROWED FANTAIL

Admittedly we did too much driving but nevertheless it was a poor bird day and Ponder went away with an even gloomier impression of the Otway birds

5th September 1948 (14) On the Sunday afternoon Joan, Michael + I, with Molly [guess], drove out to see Alan + Kath Noble at Warncoort. It was a grey day with a cold west wind. As we drove along the track across the paddock a Pipit sidled out of the grass and watched us carefully as we drove past reminding me of the Black-fronted Dotterel that displayed at the wheels of my car at Grub Lane. The plantation behind which their house shelters is a mixture of pine and sugar gum. Flying out from the plantation and feeding round the house were a pair of WILLIE-WAGTAILS, but no nest could be found. A flock of SPARROWS flew up from the building material that still surrounds the house.

[5th September 1948]

After tea Alan and I went for a walk out to the corner of the Creek Paddock on Bleak House property where Charlie Dennis had previously seen a pair of Native Companions. MAGPIE LARKS were on the paddocks in pairs and one nest seen. MAGPIES were numerous as were also their nests in the sugar-gums of a young plantation. RAVENS were about and their bulky nests were also seen. SKYLARKS were singing out of sight – the sound brings back to me at one and the same time the foreshore at Cavio [guess] and the English country side.

We eventually arrived at a swampy corner of the paddock which I imagine should be ideal for the nesting Brolga, but none were seen. A WHITE-FACED HERON and an anxious SPUR-WINGED PLOVER were the only signs of life to be seen.

When we got back I briefly explored the home plantation and found two nests of the YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL about 5 feet apart in two pines. They were 8 + 10 feet from the ground respectively on the leeward end of a branch, plainly open to view. The lower one was well built with an unlined [guess]

[5th September 1948] cocks nest on top and young inside the main entrance which was nearly vertically up from below.

In the evening I watched the beginnings of roosting activity. Magpies Ravens and a croaking Heron settled in the pines. Starlings flew in from the surrounding country setting up a great wheezing in the evening air. A flock of GOLDFINCHES flew restlessly up and down the plantation over the tops of the trees. A BROWN HAWK was seen at some distance on a barrier by a rabbit burrow watching for the evening exodus of the rabbits. Finally as it was dusk a flight of SILVER GULLS beat their way steadily westward over the creek, heading perhaps for L. Murdeduke.

9th September. [1948] This morning Thursday I had a call out to Alvie and so I took the opportunity to return by Ryan's Lane and the road that skirts the lake. It was a grey windy morning with storms coming swiftly from the west, blotting out everything with driving rain. The obvious bird of interest was the COOT, which

[9.9.48] was present in flocks of more than a hundred birds – huge black rafts of them strung out along the shore moving southward. Between these flocks were the glistening white breasts of many CRESTED GREBES and the splashes of the MUSK DUCK. Duck were not very much in evidence – a few pairs of MOUNTAIN DUCK and a few swiftly flying BLACK DUCK. SWANS were there in considerable numbers feeding on the water-logged paddocks, their necks S-shaped as their heads were driven down into the grass. Only a few SILVER GULLS were seen by the water's edge or on posts.

In a water-logged paddock 200 yards or so away were a WHITE-FACED HERON and one EASTERN SWAMPHEN which rose sleepily as the car approached.

14th September 1948 (32) I set out on the first round of the western part of the Colac Shire patch-testing school + preschool & Volmer patches for T.B. contact. I was accompanied by Nell Maloney + Mr & Mrs Stan Taylor. The route was Barangarook, Irrewillipe E, Irrewillipe, Swan

[4th September 1948] Marsh + Pirron Yallock, stopping in the Stony Rises for lunch. In the afternoon – Larpent Cororooke + Balintore where we had tea.

The open forest of the first part of our Tour produced NATIVE THRUSH, EASTERN ROSELLA, MAGPIE, MAGPIE-LARK and STARLINGS. In the Stony Rises were many NOISY MINERS mainly in pairs but sometimes gathering in noisy parties. It was a beautiful hot day but a search produced very few birds in the spot where we had lunch. EASTERN ROSELLAS probably nesting BROWN THORNBILLS, RAVENS, and a single BUTCHER BIRD. STRIATED PARDALOTES were heard as was a STRIATED FIELD-WREN. One WHISTLING EAGLE flew over. At Swan Marsh on the edge of the Rises were SWALLOWS, a FAIRY MARTIN (first of the season) SILVER GULLS MOUNTAIN DUCK in pairs though no young were seen. Also there were WHITE-FACED HERONS, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, PIPITS and a KESTREL.ch

In the very different country north of the main road we first met a WILLIE WAGTAIL then a GREY FANTAIL. On a

[14th September 1948] swamp at Cororooke were many SWANS, LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS and a pair of GULL-BILLED TERNS flying over the dairy + swamp country. At BALINTORE were GOLDFINCHES, SKYLARKS and SPARROWS while on the swamp which now contained water were, besides SWANS, many BLACK DUCK and COMMON SANDPIPERS – a visitor it was good to see. As we were driving away a ~~[?]~~ PALLID CUCKOO flew across the road. At the west corner of the Lake were EASTERN SWAMPHEN (swampy ground a few hundred yards away) and COOT, again in large flocks on the water.

17th September (45) We repeated the same route as before. This time I was accompanied only by Taylor and the day was grey but not too cold The open forest of the first part of the run produced much the same birds – KOOKABURRA NOISY MINER MAGPIE, MAGPIE-LARK, STARLING, NATIVE THRUSH, WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN (scuttled in front of the car), BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, SWALLOW WHITE-FACED HERON, YELLOW-TAILED THORN BILL and EASTERN ROSELLAS. At Swan Marsh we picked up a few more birds – RAVENS, SWANS, SILVER GULLS, WILLIE WAGTAIL and MOUNTAIN DUCK. We had

[17th September] lunch looking over the swamp-land by the Hawk's Nest Rd and there there [sic] were six WHITE IBIS, WHITE COCKATOOS in pairs feeding on the swamp. SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, KESTREL and SKYLARK. I then went for half an hour and sat on a stony barrier in the rises where were seen GREY BUTCHER-BIRD, STRIATED PARDALOTE, RED WATTLE-BIRD, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER BLUE WREN, GOLDFINCHES. Also both STRIATED and BROWN THORNBILLS were present and I got extremely good views of both so that the identity is finally settled. Also there were in the rises, WHISTLING EAGLES and what I think were GOSHAWKS.

Besides SPARROWS which were met in the Cororooke area, the rest are birds of the swamp – BLACK DUCK, TEAL (? on Cororooke Swamp), COMMON SANDPIPER (? long way away) WHITE-HEADED STILT – two pairs one at Cororooke and one on L Colac W – COOT, MUSK DUCK, HOARY-HEADED GREBE, CRESTED GREBE, LITTLE BLACK CORMORANTS, LITTLE PIED CORMORANT, EASTERN SWAMP-HEN and RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL. That was a really excellent day and for the two trips a total of fifty one species were seen.

[Pages 143 & 144 cut out of notebook]

[table]

Page	Date	
30	28.6.47	Fremantle
31	29.6.47-3.7.47	Australian Bight (reference only)
31.	3.7.47	First day in Melbourne.
31.	4.7.47	Dandenongs.
33.	5.7.47	Down to Bay to Mornington
34	9.7.47	Last day in Melbourne. Trip up to Colac.
35	20.7.47	Colac – Gardens.
36	27.7.47	Colac – Lorne.
37	11,13.8.47	Larpent
37	14.8.47	Yeodene.
38	16.8.47	Colac – Melbourne
40	31.8.47	Yeodene
40	9.9.47	The Lake-bank
42	13.9.47	The Lake-bank
43	13.9.47	Irrewillipe, Swan Marsh.
44.	14.9.47	Lorne – Aireys Inlet
49	28.9.47	Turkeith + Larrigan [guess]
52	4.10.47	Anakie
54	5.10.47	The Otways.
57	23.10.47	Balintore
58	25.10.47	Balintore
60	26.10.47	Yeodene
62	15.11.47	Yeodene

[/table]

[table]

Page	Date	
64	16.11.47	Grub Lane
70	6,7.12.47	Gellibrand
74	14.12.47	Larrigan [guess], Warncoort
75	27.12.47	L. Corangamite, Dreeite
76	28.12.47	Stony Rises
80	10,11.1.48	Lorne
81	25.1.48	Turkeith
83.	7.3.48	Barongarook.
84	9,10.3.48	Forrest, Apollo Bay, Beech Forest, Gellibrand Carlise
87	15,16.3.48	Gellibrand, Ferguson, Lavers Hill, Kennedys Creek, Devondale, Lower Gellibrand, Lavers Hill, Glen Aire, Apollo Bay, Lorne
89	20.3.48	Yeodene
89	21.3.48	Gellibrand, Carlisle, Devondale, Lavers Hill, Ferguson, Gellibrand
91	22,23.3.48	Swan Marsh, Pirron Yallock, Cororooke, Ondit, Balls Dam
93.	3-5.4.48	Aireys Inlet
96	6,7.4.48	Warncoort, Irrewarra, Dreeite, Wool Wool, Nalangil
97	8,9.4.48	Elliminyt E, Yeodene, Gerangamete, Barongarook, Irrewillipe
99	19.4.48	Forrest, Apollo Bay, Beech Forest, Gellibrand, Carlisle
100	20.4.48	Ferguson, Lavers Hill, Kennedys Crk, Lower Gellibr. [Gellibrand], Gl.[Glen] Aire, Apollo B.[Bay]
101	25.4.48	Yeodene + Barwon Downs
102	29.4.48	Swan Marsh, Cororook* [Cororooke], Ondit, Meredith Park
103	11.5.48	Warncoort, Dreeite, Nalangil, Tomahawk Crk
104	12.5.48	Gerangamete, Barongarook, Irrewillipe, Foxhow. [/table]

[/table]

[table]

Page	Date	
106	1.6.48	Forrest, Apollo Bay, Beech Forest, Gellibrand, Carlisle – Colac
107	2.6.48	Lavers Hill, Kennedy's Crk, Lower Gellibrand, Glen Aire, Apollo Bay
108	3.6.48	Lake-bank, Colac
109	8.6.48	Brisbane, Rockhampton
109	9.6.48	Mackay
111	10.6.48	Mackay – Prosperpine – Cannondale – Daydream Island
113	11.6.48	Hayman Is.
116	12.6.48	Hayman Is., Hook Is.
119	13.6.48	Hayman Is.
120	14.6.48	Hayman Is.
121	15.6.48	Hayman Is.
122	16.6.48	Around Hayman Is.
124	17.6.48	Hook Is.
125	18.6.48	Hayman Is.
125	19.6.48	Hayman Is.
126	20.6.48	Daydream Is. South Molle Is.
127	21.6.48	Outer Barrier Reef
127	22.6.48	Hayman Is.
127	23.6.48	Hayman Is.
128	24.6.48	Hayman – Bowen
128	25.6.48	Bowen – Brisbane – Sydney.
129	26,27.6.48	Sydney.
130	7.8.48	Wonga Wonga

[/table]

[table]

Page	Date	
130	8.8.48	Yeo [Yeodene] + Barwon Downs
132	10.8.48	Lake-bank
133	28.8.48	Red Rock, Stony Rises
134	29.8.48	Carlisle, Devondale, Lavers Hill, Gellibrand.
136	5.9.48	Warncoort.
138	9.9.48	Cororooke – L. Colac west.
139	14.9.48	Barongarook – Irrewillipe – Pirron Yallock – Balintore
141	17.9.48	Barongarook – Swan Marsh, Hawk's Nest Rd – Pirron Yallock, Cororooke Balintore

[/table]

[INSIDE BLACK COVER]

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[BACK COVER]

[Colour illustration of a black bird on a tree branch. Forest and cottage in background]

[image caption] [italics]

J. Gould & H.C. Richter, del et lith The 6th and last of a series of British Birds

[/italics]

ROOK – Corvus f. frugilegus.

[italics] "Then rooks, the guttural talkers, three times or four repeat
A clear cool note, and often up there in the treetop cradles,
Charmed by some unfamiliar sweet impulse we cannot guess at,
Gossip among the leaves : they leave when rain is over
To visit again that baby brood, their darling nests."

From Cecil Day Lewis' translation of the Georgics of Virgil.

[/italics] [/image caption]